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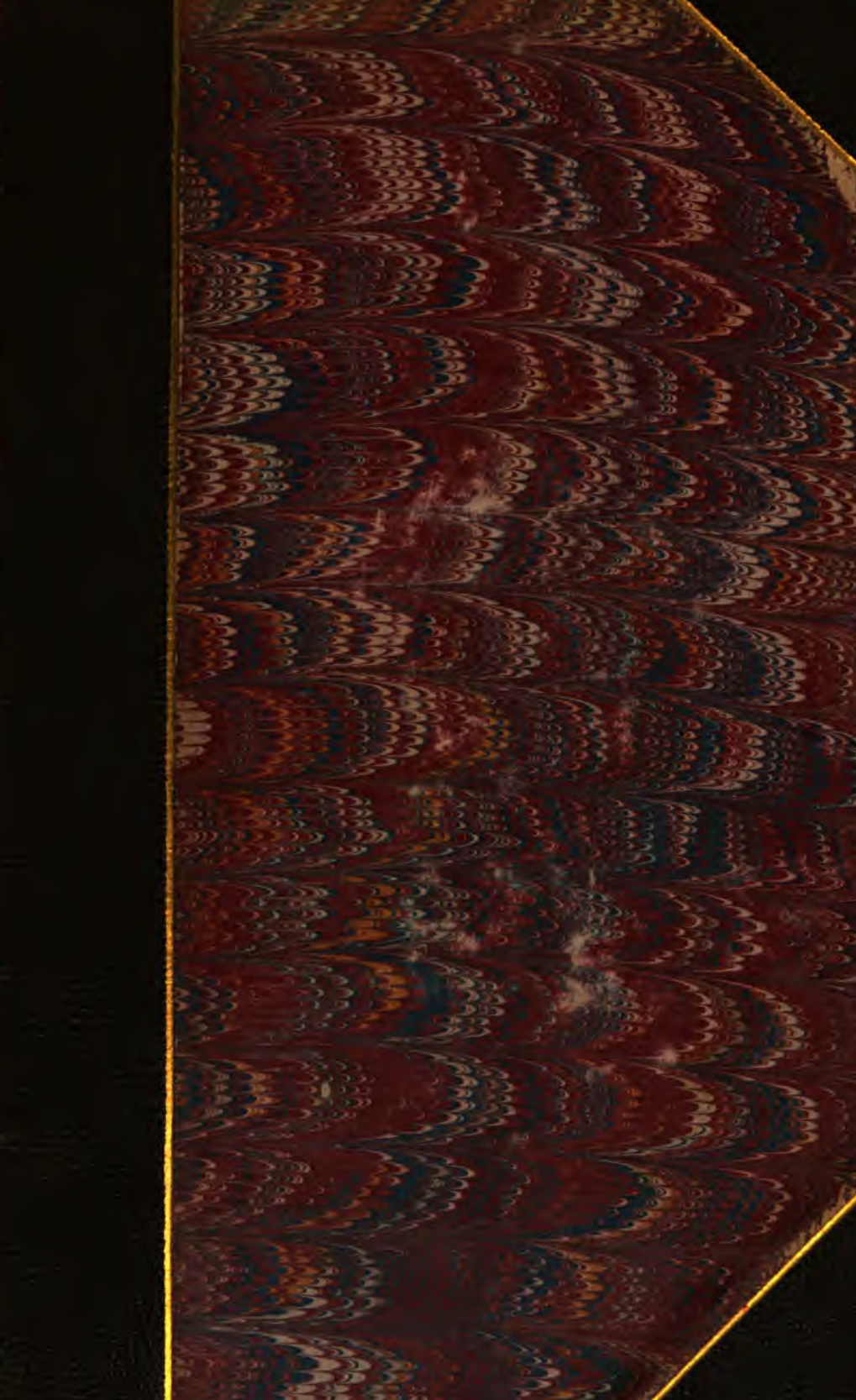
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*James Comerford.*

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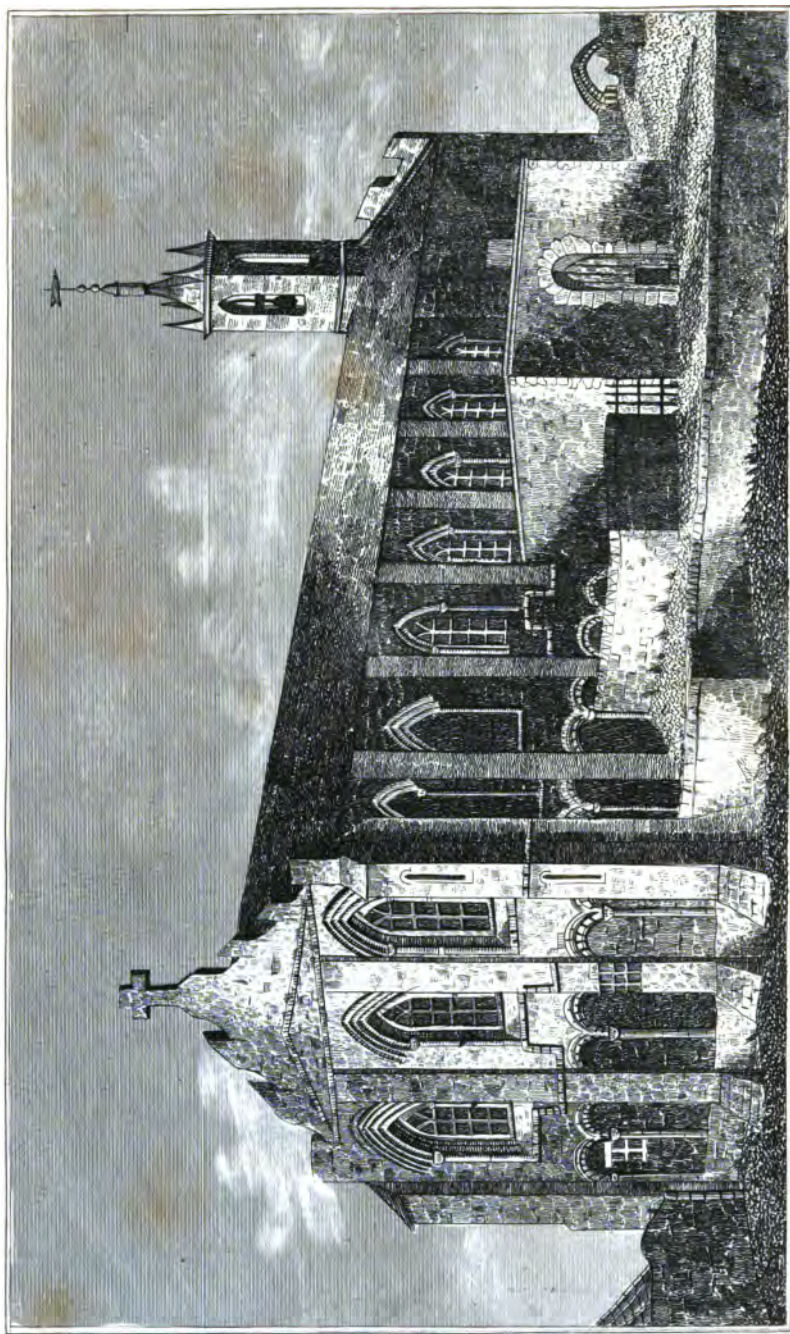












NORTH EAST VIEW OF CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

A  
**HISTORY**  
OF  
**COLDINGHAM PRIORY;**

CONTAINING  
**A SURVEY**  
OF THE CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY OF THE  
EASTERN PORTION OF BERWICKSHIRE, ANCIENTLY  
TERMED COLDINGHAMSHIRE :

**WITH A SKETCH**  
OF ITS GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE—A CATALOGUE OF ITS RARER  
BOTANICAL PRODUCTIONS, AND COPIES OF THE PRINCIPAL CHAR-  
TERS AND DOCUMENTS CONNECTED WITH THE PRIORY.

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BY  
**ALEXANDER ALLAN CARR, SURGEON.**

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MDCCCXXXVI.





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HIGH STREET, BERWICK.**

## ERRATA.

- Page 25. line 30. *for* "Kirkdesn," *read* "Kirkdean."  
 — 31. — 31. *for* "Fairy Castle," *read* "Fairny Castle."  
 — 82. — 10. *for* "Edwyn," *read* "Edward."  
 — 123. — 30. *for* "Ranton," *read* "Reston."  
 — 142. — 13. *for* "triangular-shaped boundary," *read* "triangular-shaped promontory, which forms the western boundary."  
 — 229. — 31. *for* "secum," *read* "cum."  
 — 230. — 17. *for* "qui," *read* "quae."  
 — — 21. *for* "effundeus," *read* "effundens."  
 — — 24. *for* "oblevesceus," *read* "obliviscens;" *and for* "virgines," *read* "virginis."  
 — — 29. *for* "enseclium," *read* "auxilium;" *and for* "clementes," *read* "clementis."  
 — — 30. *for* "memento," *read* "momento;" *and for* "permenitus," *read* "permunitus;" *for* "mares," *read* "maris;" *for* "recesset," *read* "recessit."  
 — 299. — 26. *for* "1521," *read* "1621."





## P R E F A C E.

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THE collection of materials for the present Publication was commenced rather with a view of gratifying the curiosity of its Author, than with a design of submitting the result of his researches to the Public; but at the instigation of an esteemed, though, it is feared, too partial literary friend, to whom his manuscripts were in a confidential manner shewn, he was induced to make yet more zealous exertions towards the accumulation of facts, and subsequently to apply himself seriously to the task of arranging them. Without any desire to deprive the critic of his *bone*, he may be permitted to state, that the greater part has been written and revised under circumstances the least favourable for literary composition, the result of which has been the introduction of several typographical errors, as well as a few mistakes of a less venial kind. It is also to be regretted, that he should have found it necessary to abridge that

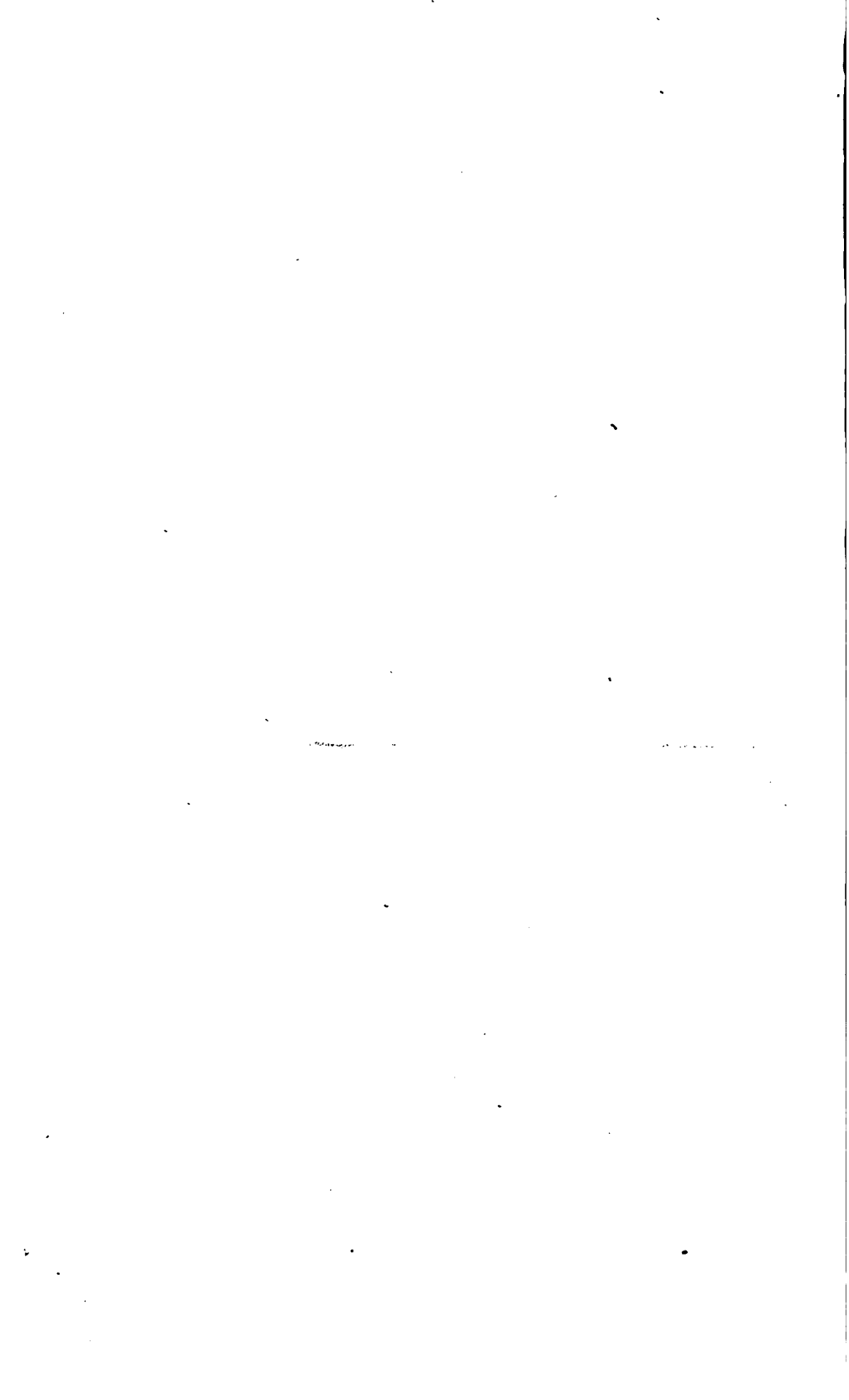
part of the Work which relates to the monastic institutions, having discovered too late, that, had the whole of the manuscript been submitted to the press, the volume would have attained nearly double its present size. To this cause is to be assigned the omission of several valuable ancient documents, the collection of which was not the least difficult part of his task, and which, by the antiquarian, might have been deemed not the least interesting part of the volume.

Most of the original charters connected with the Priory are preserved in the Treasury of the Dean and Chapter of Durham; and copies of the most important of them are published in the Appendix to Dr. Smith's *Bede*, in Anderson's *Diplomata Scotiæ*, where *fac-similes* of some of them are inserted, and in the Appendix to the Rev. James Raine's *History of North Durham*, from which much assistance has been derived. The Transcript-Chartularies in the Advocates' Library, particularly that of Coldingham, Rymer's *Fœdera*, the Acts of the Scottish Parliament, Prynne's Records, the *Rotuli Scotiæ*, and Register of the Great Seal, Chalmers' *Caledonia*, and Ridpath's *Border History*, have been carefully consulted, and such extracts made from them as

seemed congenial to his purpose. But to individuals as well as to books, the Author feels himself deeply indebted. In a particular manner are his grateful acknowledgments due to Sir JOHN HALL, Bart. of Dunglass, whose kindness, displayed under a variety of forms, can only be forgotten when the hand that penned these pages shall have “forgot its cunning.” From the Rev. DAVID IRVINE, L. L. D. of the Advocates’ Library—JAMES HAMILTON, Esq. A. M. Durham University—ROBERT WEDDELL, Esq. Berwick—the Rev. ANDREW BAIRD, Coldbrandspath, for assistance to drawing up the geological sketch of the district—and from ANDREW DARLING, Esq. surgeon, Dunse, for the use of a copy of Godscroft’s Manuscript History of the Homes of Wedderburn, he has also to beg acceptance of his warmest thanks.

AYTON,

1st January, 1836.





# HISTORY

OF

## COLDINGHAM.

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### PART I.

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#### CHAPTER I.

*Origin of the Name.—Situation of the Village.—Its Antiquity.—  
Limits of the District called Coldinghamshire.*

THE etymology of the word Coldingham has, by no author whom we are acquainted with, been very satisfactorily explained. The late learned and indefatigable author of *Caledonia*, considering it to be entirely of Saxon original, derived it from the words *cold*, *den* and *ham*, thus making it signify the *village* or *hamlet* in the *cold vale*. Much as we are disposed to concur in any opinion proceeding from one who bestowed such labour in investigating the ancient history of his country, we cannot refrain from remarking, that this definition of Chalmers seems an improbable one, as the term *cold* is neither applicable to the valley at the present day, nor could possibly have been so at any former period. Surrounded on all sides by gentle eminences, which, at the time it received its name, were in all probability

clothed with wood, its situation must have been *warm* and sheltered compared with that of many other places in its neighbourhood. Others derive it from the Saxon words *cold*, *ing* and *ham*, so as to make it imply the *village* on or near *the cold common*. In Ptolemy's map of *Brittania Romana*, the site of Coldingham is pointed out by the word *Colania*, and this circumstance has given rise to another conjecture about the origin of its present name, which has been deduced from the ancient British words *coll*, a *collection* or *gathering together*, and *aun*, a general designation for a *water* or *streamlet*. The final member of the word, *ham*, is supposed to have been added by the Saxons when they formed a settlement in the valley which was called *Colaun* by the aboriginal inhabitants of the district. According to this view of the subject, Coldingham is assumed to be a corruption of *Colaunham*, and acquired its name from its situation at the *confluence of streamlets*, or, in other words, "*at the meeting of the waters.*" This conjecture is supposed to derive some degree of confirmation in the fact, that *Collingham* and *Collingaham* are the names given to the village in the writings of Roger Hoveden, and in charters granted to its monastery by Malcolm IV. and succeeding Scottish monarchs. In one part of his works the venerable Bede calls it *Coldana*, and elsewhere he bestows on it the more dignified appellation of *Coludi urbs*—the City Coludum, a name by which it appears to have been generally known by the monkish annalists of his time\*.

\* Writing of the monastery he describes it as situated "*in loco quem Coludi urbem nomenant*," Bede, Lib. iv. cap. 25. As this religious house stood upon the promontory of St Abb's Head, it is not improbable that Bede and his contemporaries gave this name to a small Saxon town or settlement which stood upon that part of the headland, which at this day goes by the name of the *brugh*—an obvious corrup-

It would be vain for us to enquire more minutely into the origin of the word. Places frequently derived their names from circumstances so remote and obscure, as to defy the efforts of the most acute etymologist to unravel them, and time employed in such unsatisfactory researches can hardly be deemed well spent.

The present village of Coldingham is situated near the eastern coast of Berwickshire, and lies between  $55^{\circ} 54'$  north latitude, and  $2^{\circ} 8'$  west longitude from Greenwich. It stands in the bosom of a retired vale about a mile distant from the sea, and consists merely of a few rows of inconsiderable edifices, having in the area of the principal of these a cross, erected about twenty years ago by the Earl of Home, lord superior of the barony. On the northern and southern sides of the gentle eminence on which the village stands, flow two small streamlets, which, before uniting, encircle an area of several acres of haugh land, on which stand the remains of the Priory and monastic buildings, which shall subsequently be described.

The antiquity of Coldingham as a place of residence is unquestionably great, from its being distinctly pointed out, as has been already noticed, in Ptolemy's map of Britain under the Roman sway; and in this respect it outvies Berwick and other more considerable towns adjacent, which are not known to have existed for centuries afterwards. The foundation of the Priory,

tion of the Saxon *burgh*, which signified a town. In a map of *Brittania Saxonica*, published in Gibson's Edition of Camden's *Brittania*, however, the word *Coludersburgh* is employed to represent a place a little to the south-east of St. Abbs, and in the *Liber Eliensis*, or *Chronicle of Ely*, that promontory is called *Caput Coldeburci* (Coldburgh head). In the charters of the earlier kings the name of Coldingham occurs in a variety of forms, most of which however are ascribable to errors in orthography.

at the commencement of the Scoto-Saxon period, contributed greatly to elevate it in importance as a town, and there is a tradition, which is by no means an improbable one, that its founder, King Edgar, at the same time caused here to be erected, for himself and his rude court, a palace or house for temporary residence on the site of the ruins still called Edgar's Walls. He was present at its dedication, and, as will afterwards be shown, lavished upon it a princely munificence. His pious successor King David, attended by the bishops of St. Andrews and Glasgow, the Abbot of Melrose, and other *magnates* of the realm, held his court here in 1147, and displayed his liberality to the religious establishment which his brother had reared. It was also successively visited by Malcolm IV., Alexander II., William the Lion, and several other Scottish monarchs. The kings of England, too, occasionally honoured it with their presence, though not invariably from peaceful motives. During the prosperous reign of Alexander III. it seems to have carried on a considerable trade in wool, and at the beginning of the fourteenth century a weekly market on Wednesdays, and a yearly fair on the eve of St. Luke (18th October) was established in the village by Edward I. of England, which were attended by Flemings and other merchants from Berwick and beyond the Tweed. During the same century, it surpassed all the other towns within the sheriffdom of Berwick, in the extent of its population and in the accommodation which it afforded to the traveller. In 1371, William Earl of Douglas, the Justiciary on the south of the Forth, held his court here (Berwick, the usual place of its sitting, being then in the possession of the English;) when he assigns as the reason of his having selected it in preference to the other towns within the shire, the *superior number of its houses and*

*inns* \*. So recently even as the year 1560, only thirty-eight years after its partial consumption by fire, when Lord Grey marched northward to the siege of Leith, it afforded a night's accommodation to the six thousand foot-soldiers under his command †. The Reformation, however, at the same time that it dissolved the Priory, seems also to have blasted the prosperity of the town, which is now reduced to the lowest grade.

During the Saxon period, the name of Coldinghamshire, (*Coldingham-schire* and *Coldingham-sirre*) was applied to a tract of country contiguous to Coldingham, and which constituted about an eighth part of the total area of Berwickshire. Its boundaries are minutely described in the charters of David I. and William the Lion, printed in the Appendix to Part II. of the present volume, though at this day it would be a task of no small difficulty to trace them precisely, the names of many of the places mentioned having long ago become obsolete. They are thus described in the charters, viz.—from the boundary between Berewic and Lambertun, as far as Billie, thence to Drieforde, thence to Middlesdenehead, and from that by Mereburne to Crachoctrestreet, thence to Eiforde, and from that to the rivulet which flows into the sea by Aldchambuspethe. Thus it is quite apparent that the parishes of Coldingham, Eyemouth, Ayton, Lamber-ton, and Auldcambus, with portions perhaps of Mordington, Foulden, Chirnside, Buncle, and Coldbrands-path, were comprehended within its limits ‡. Over

\* See Appendix, No. 1.

† Haynes' English Chronicle, p. 1188.

‡ Though it is certain that only a very small portion of the parishes of Mordington, Foulden, and Chirnside was included in Coldinghamshire, to extend our field of research, we have also given in the follow-



this district the priors of Coldingham exercised an ecclesiastical jurisdiction, together with the right of exacting certain military services and pecuniary disbursements, by virtue of charters, which they at various times obtained from royalty, as well as from the proprietors of the lands comprehended within it. It possessed the same privilege as Northamptonshire and Islandshire, of affording protection for thirty-seven days to malefactors and others, who fled within its precincts for protection\*.

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## CHAPTER II.

*Relics of the Ancient Britons.—Cairns.—Camps.—Urns, &c. Relics of the Romans.—Coins.—Roman Sepulchre.—Moletrinae.—Camps.—Roman Road between the Tweed and St. Abbs.*

OF the ancient British tribes by whom our island was peopled at the time of the Roman invasion of North Britain, the Ottadini inhabited that wide range of country which extends between the Tyne and the Avon, in which of course Northamptonshire was included. The names of innumerable places † throughout the whole county testify to its having been inhabited by these rude but warlike people, and previous to the year 1730, when, according to Chalmers, a zeal for agricultural improvement in Northamptonshire began first

ing pages what we have been able to glean regarding their ancient history.

\* See Edgar's Charter in App. Part 2. Chambre's *Anglia Sacra*, i. 669.

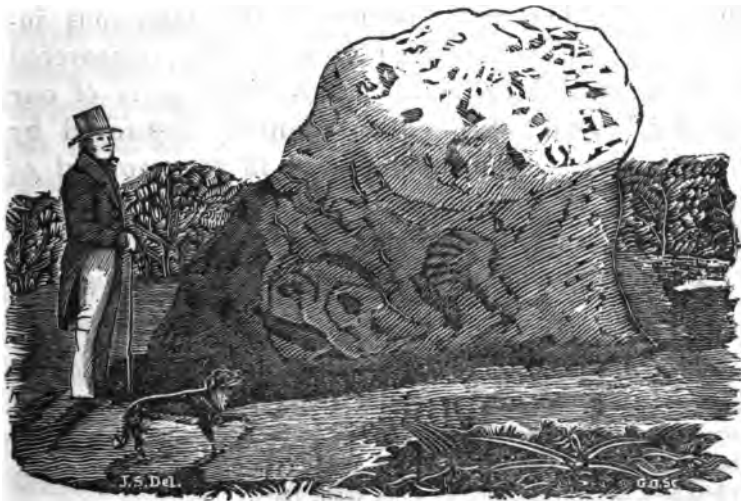
† In our neighbourhood the Eye and Ale, Whitadder, Drumau, Earnsheugh, Billie, Press, Pillmuir, Auldambus, are only a few of the rivers and places which might be enumerated as words decidedly British.

to manifest itself, the eye every where met with substantial evidences of the fact. The *tumuli*, or cairns, which marked the dust of their warriors and others, were at that period in a great measure removed, and their materials applied to the construction of dikes and drains. Their *caers*, or encampments, occupying for the most part situations more remote from the field of the husbandman's labours, remained longer undisturbed; but the plough has at length levelled the greater part, though not all of them. The largest cairn recorded to have stood within our district occupied the summit of the hill, upon the side of which the village of Chirnside stands, and from it the latter seems to have derived its name; and at the distance of about a mile eastward from this, on Edington Hill, there were also two very large cairns, of which there are now no remains. On their demolition, a little more than fifty years ago, a stone coffin, of an oblong or square shape, was taken up entire. In the neighbourhood of these cairns there were also, within these few years, visible the remains of a British encampment. On a considerable eminence at the northern extremity of Lamberton moor, called Drumau, was a distinct fortlet of this British tribe, constructed of two concentric *aggera*, with very deep intervening trenches. The situation of this camp being admirably adapted for defence, the Saxons, when they overran the country in after years, seem to have also employed it as a military station, and it then probably received the name of Habchester, which it still retains. From this spot one of the most delightful and extensive views may be obtained of the fertile plain extending between the Cheviot and the Lammermoor hills. One-half of the camp has been levelled by the plough within these few years—the remainder is still very distinctly preserved. A simi-

lar fortification on Earnsheugh, or the Tun-law, as it is commonly called—a precipitous sea cliff a little to the north-west of St. Abbs—remains the most perfect of all the Ottadinic encampments in Coldinghamshire. It is perched on the very verge of the cliff, three sides of which supplied it with a natural bulwark, against which the waters of the German ocean are perpetually breaking at the depth of four hundred and thirty feet below. Many of the knolls between Earnsheugh and Coldingham Loch—a beautiful sheet of water lying a little eastward,—are marked with trenches, which in all probability served as outposts or exploratory stations to this camp, or to a Roman one in its vicinity hereafter noticed. From this a chain of camps, more or less connected, seems to have traversed the heart of our district, toward the Lammermoor hills. Part of this chain is still very conspicuous on the summit of an eminent ridge called *Dreedreigh*, or Warlaw-bank, and Buncle edge, where there are the remains of five oval encampments, one of which contains within its circumference upwards of six acres of moorland. Till near the close of last century numerous cairns and barrows were situated in their neighbourhood, where arrow-heads of flint, called *elf-shots*, have also been discovered. On removing one of these cairns, in the year 1759, which was surrounded by a circle of stones forty feet in diameter, and which stood about 300 yards from the site of the large encampment on Warlaw, three feet below the surface there was discovered a very large thick stone of a red colour, six feet long, and two and a half broad. Underneath this was found a *cist-vaen*, or stone coffin, five feet long, two broad, and two deep, the walls and bottom being of blue coloured stone. It contained a quantity of black earth

of an oily or saponaceous nature. The circle by which it was surrounded had the appearance of having had an entrance from the east paved with stone \*. On the side of the hill are rows of pits, several feet in depth, similar to those met with on Westerdale, and other moorish districts of Yorkshire and Aberdeenshire, and which have been supposed to indicate the site of an *ancient British town* †.

About two miles eastward from Warlaw, on the farm of Little Billy, a very large circular cairn was removed within these few years, which, excepting on its south-east side, was surrounded by huge blocks of unhewn granite; and about a hundred yards distant from the situation which it occupied, a similar column is still standing, which is called by the country people the *Pech-stane*.



\* Scots Magazine, Sept. 1759, p. 462; Edin. Chronicle, Aug. 1759.

† Young's History of Whitby, vol. ii. p. 669, 681.

On removing the stones which formed the cairn, a stone coffin, of the same size and construction as that above described, was discovered, which contained some mouldering fragments of human bones. About three miles northward from Warlaw, near Renton, three sepulchral cairns were removed about six years ago, in the centre of which were found some fragments of broken urns. The largest of these was well known by the name of St. David's Cairn, which it probably acquired in more recent years, in honour of the liberal King David I. who, among his various acts of munificence, was not unmindful of the monastery within whose precincts the relic stood. On the demolition of a similar monument in 1810—11, which stood on the summit of the Bell-hill near St. Abb's, one of these urns was fortunately taken out entire; and three exactly similar were dug up, about fifty years ago, in making excavations for the new road through Billie-mire \*. Besides these, numerous instances might be adduced of urns being discovered in the hearts of cairns in various other parts of our district, which were either wantonly destroyed by the ignorant workmen employed in the removal of the cairn, or spontaneously fell to pieces on being freely exposed to the action of the atmosphere †.

From the observations made in opening the

\* All of these urns are formed of coarse baked clay, and are nearly equal in size. That found on the Bell-hill measures about six inches in diameter, and is four inches in height. It was taken up by Mr. Brodie, formerly tenant of Northfield, and is now in the possession of Dr. Johnston, Berwick. Those discovered at Billy-mire are preserved at Whitehall, the property of Sir John Hall, Bart.

† In a copy of a curious document, of date 11th March 1561, in possession of Mr. Hamilton, parochial schoolmaster of Coldingham, two cairns, called Dalk's-law Cairn, and the Monks' Cairn, are mentioned as the marches of Coldingham-muir. The first of these stood on the sum-



cairns in this part of Scotland, it appears that the original Celtic inhabitants employed two different methods of preserving the dust of their departed countrymen. One of these consisted in burning the body, depositing the ashes in an earthenware vessel, and then heaping over it a pile of stones. The other differed from it in the circumstance of the body being deposited *entire* in a *cist-vaen*, or stone chest, composed of six or more flat stones, or of one only. The last of these appears to have been their most ancient mode of sepulture; the former class may, with safety, be ascribed to the Romanized Ottadini, who seem to have borrowed the practice of cremation from their more refined conquerors—the Romans. It has been shown that, in two instances, those cairns in the interior of which *cist-vaens* were found, were surrounded by huge upright blocks of granite, exactly analogous to those which in other parts of Britain are pointed out as the boundaries of a Druidic temple, but without any altar stone crowning the summit of the pile. May we be allowed to conjecture, that these granitic columns had actually been the walls of such a pagan sanctuary, and that the sepulchral tumuli within their circumference may have been the fabric of more recent years? That the relic noticed as existing at Billy, was in some way connected with the worship of the Druids, is almost substantiated by the fact, that a brook which flows past the hillock on which it stands is, at this day, called the *Drædan-burn*—a name which an etymologist can have little difficulty in tracing to the same root as the word Druid itself\*.

mit of an hill, 634 feet above the level of the sea—the latter on the lands of Press.

\* The following fragment, for which the author is indebted to his

Such are the principal relics of the Ottadini which now exist within our district, or of whose former existence any record has been handed down to us. Those which have been omitted bore too close a resemblance to the camps and cairns above described to entitle them to any particular notice \*.

When the Roman general, Julius Agricola, in A. D. 79, marched northward with the view of subjugating the British tribes beyond the Tyne, Coldinghamshire was undoubtedly the scene of many bloody and dis-

friend Mr. George Henderson, surgeon, Chirnside, relates to the Cairn and Stone:—

Grisly Drædan sat alane  
By the Cairn and Pech-stane;  
Said Billie wi' a segg sæ stout  
I'll soon drive grisly Drædan out;  
Drædan leuched and stalked awa,  
Syne vanished in a babanqua.

The *babanqua*, or quagmire, into which these contentious streamlets flowed, was, no doubt, the now drained and cultivated Billy-mire. The rhyme Mr. Henderson picked up when a school-boy, from the recitation of an old farm-servant at Little Billy.

\* The other parts of Berwickshire possessed but two relics of the Ottadini at all different from those above noticed. In the parish of Longformacus, at a place called Byrecleugh, there was formerly an immense heap of stones, 80 yards long, 25 broad, and 6 high. (Statistical Account 1791.) This differed essentially from the *tumuli* in our neighbourhood, all of which assumed, more or less of a rounded form. From its enormous magnitude, and the labour required for its construction, it seems to have been formed, at a less remote period, of stones taken from the other cairns adjoining it, as a memorial of some signal, but unrecorded combat. Bones of horses and oxen, warlike weapons, &c. are said to have been discovered among the stones; which accords with the very ancient practice of throwing the bodies of these animals on the funeral piles, and burying them with their dead. In the parish of Greenlaw are still to be traced the remains of an earthen mound, called Harit's Dyke. It was traced in 1755 by John

astrous conflicts. From that time till the year A. D. 121, it continued to be inhabited by the Romans, and those Ottadini who found it expedient to succumb to the superior forces and military skill of the invaders. Rather than crouch to the imperial eagle, however, many of these Britons retired northward beyond the wall which Agricola had built between the Forth and Clyde, and aided the Scots and Picts, their former enemies, in annoying the forces of the Romans. After a succession of bloody conflicts, however, these Caledonian savages succeeded in reconquering from the latter Berwickshire, and the whole tract of country northward of the Tyne, which, during the next three hundred years, continued to be a field of almost perpetual warfare. The Romans, however, were ultimately obliged to abandon Britain in A. D. 426, in consequence of serious disturbances which had broken out at Rome, an event which was deplored by the "Groans" of those Britons who had submitted to their yoke, and fought under their banners.

Few vestiges remain to remind us of that brave and interesting people by whom this part of the country was so long overrun, but what we do possess is quite sufficient to convince us of their having once occupied it, had we even no historical evidence of such being the fact. Several silver coins of Gratian, Nerva, Antoninus Pius, and Lucius Flaminus and others, have, at different periods, been dug up, with their inscriptions considerably defaced, but too distinct to admit a doubt of their being of Roman mintage \*; and Dr. Anderson,

Spotswood, Esq. of that ilk, from a British camp called Haerfaulds, in Legerwood parish, to the immediate vicinity of Berwick. This Chalmers conjectures to be the work of the Romanized Ottadini.

\* Since writing the above, a small brass coin of Titus Vespasian, has been found by Mr. James Belaney, surgeon, on the farm of Ayton-law,

late minister of Chirnside, in his statistical account of that parish, recorded the discovery of a Roman sepulchre of considerable dimensions, in 1788, on the neighbourhood of Billy-mire. Moletrinae, or querns, have been found in great abundance in various parts of the country, though most of these must be assigned to a period much more recent than that of the Romans. Sixteen of these hand-mills were dug up a few years ago on the farm of Auchencraw-mains, and two or three are said to have been also found on the farms of Chesterbank and Prendergust. The upper stone of one of these mills was taken up lately near Auldcaibus, which measures in diameter about eighteen inches\*. It corresponds more closely to the description of a Roman *moletrina* than any of the other specimens which have come under our notice. The most considerable Roman encampment in the Merse was at a place called Chesterknows, on the very confines of our district, on the south bank of the Whitadder, nearly opposite the modern mansion-house of Ninewells. It was of an oblong rectangular form, extending from east to west along the river, and was defended by a triple line of ramparts. It is now completely levelled by the plough, but remained pretty entire in 1765, when it was inspected by the late Dr. Anderson†. On a height, a little to the westward of St. Abb's Head, and at a short distance from the British camp at Earnsheugh, are to be seen the vestiges of another small Roman camp, also of an oblong shape, which has unfortunately been very much defaced within these few years. It was defended on one side by the sea-bank. By some about fifty yards distant from the site of a Roman encampment, now very much defaced.

\* It is in the possession of Mr. Buist, factor at Dunglass.

† Statistical Account, vol. xiv. p. 323.

antiquaries the celebrated Roman road, called Wattling Street, or the Devil's Causeway, is supposed to have been carried through the heart of our district, towards the military station at Inveresk. Maitland makes it cross the Tweed at Berwick, and thence brings it over Lamberton and Coldingham moors by Auldcambus and Dunbar into East Lothian. In Ainslie's large map, the Wattling Street pursues a direct course from West Ord, two miles above Berwick, towards the Roman station at St. Abb's, where it terminates. Others, however, and among these Chalmers, make it pursue a more westerly course, allowing merely branches of it to have communicated with the camp of Chesterknows, and that near St. Abb's. As, however, there are evident remains of Roman fortifications on the heights above Auldcambus, several miles westward, it is natural to suppose, that some communication also subsisted between them and the last-mentioned of these camps; but whether this was effected by a continuation of the main road, or by an extension of one of its branches, it is not easy to determine. No vestiges of these causeways are now apparent, nor are there, in the course which they must have pursued, any names of places which might tend to confirm us in our conjectures on this point.

We have no evidence of any urns decidedly Roman having been taken up entire; fragments of their military weapons and accoutrements have occasionally been exposed by the plough; but of their baths, altars, and granaries, which are still traceable in Mid-Lothian, no vestiges are here observable\*.

\* It is much to be regretted, that the reverend authors of some of the first Statistical Accounts of the parishes included within our limits, should have bestowed so little attention to their antiquities. From some of these no exact idea can be formed of the Roman and British



## CHAPTER III.

*Introduction of the Saxons.—Establishment of the Northumbrian Kingdom.—Change in the Language.—Saxon Coins and Villages.*

AFTER the abdication of the Romans in A. D. 426, the Britons, finding themselves utterly incapable of defending their territories against the furious incursions of the Scots and Picts, after a vain struggle of about three years, found it necessary to implore the aid of the Saxons—a fierce, warlike, Gothic tribe who inhabited the north-eastern region of Germany, and part of the peninsula of Jutland. From them they received the most effectual assistance against their barbarous invaders, who were forced once more to retire within their native fastnesses. The Saxons having in a great measure restored tranquillity, began in their turn to view with invidious eyes the country which they had been invited over to defend, and at length openly tried to bring under their yoke the unsuspecting Britons. The latter, justly fired with indignation at this act of perfidy on the part of their allies, after a long and brave struggle in defence of their common rights, were completely subdued. Some of them forming matrimonial alliances with their conquerors, or compelled to serve them in the humble capacity of slaves and bondmen, continued still to inhabit the hills and dales of their native territory, while others maintained their independence amid the inaccessible wilds of the Cambrian mountains.

Our district appears to have been first entered, and settled in by the Saxons, about the latter end of the

remains then existing. In one instance, a circular camp is actually stated to be Roman.

fifth century, when Octo and Ebissa, the son and nephew of Hengist, the Saxon leader, who had by this time acquired the sovereignty of Kent, led over to our shores a new colony of their countrymen. After plundering the Orkney isles, they advanced along the eastern coast of Scotland, and meeting with little opposition, except from the Picts, took up their abode on the shores of what are now called Berwickshire and the Lothians\*. In A. D. 547, a much more formidable force established themselves on the coast of Northumberland and Berwickshire under Ida, whose devastations procured for him the portentous title of *Flamzwyn*, or the Flame-bearer. The Scots and Picts, however they may have harassed the original colony previous to his arrival, now found themselves compelled to retire before his arms, or submit to the authority of this pretended descendant of Woden, the God of War. Under his auspices, the kingdom of Northumbria was now established, which comprehended within its ample range the modern shires of Northumberland, Berwick, Haddington, and Edinburgh; with a portion of Roxburgh and Linlithgow; and as the seat of his government, he founded the castle of Bebbanburgh, now Bamburgh.

The Saxon language became gradually superinduced upon that of the original inhabitants, as the names of innumerable places over all Berwickshire testify; and to the numerous encampments of the former inhabitants, of which they probably availed themselves, as a means of defence against the Danish rovers, who soon afterwards began to infest these shores, they applied the Saxon *Ceaster*, now Chester. In noticing the relics of the Ottadini, it was remarked, that the name of Habchester had in this manner probably been

\* Nennius, chap. xxxvi.

imparted to the fortlet on Drumau ; and four similarly constructed camps in its neighbourhood, seem to have received the name Chester in the same way. They were ploughed out some years ago, but their situation is still pretty accurately indicated by the farm steadings now known by the names of Cairn-chester, Chester-bank, and Chester-dale. In the same way the names of Whitchester (now contracted to Whitster) and High Chester were applied respectively to the Roman camps near St. Abb's and Auldcambus \*.

At various times coins of the early Saxon kings of Northumbria have been discovered in this neighbourhood, some of which, mixed with Roman coins, were contained in small vessels of earthenware ; while others have been turned up by the plough in its course over moorlands, for the first time subjected to its operations. One of these, inclosed with several others in a vessel of the above description, was found a few years ago by some workmen, near the ruins of St. Helen's chapel, with the circumscription **ATHELSTAN · REX · TO · BRIT ·** or Athelstan King of All Britain †.

\* On our coast there are no encampments which can, with any degree of probability, be ascribed to the Saxons, except, perhaps, a singular fortification at the embouchure of Dunglass-burn, lately pointed out to us by Sir John Hall, Bart. It is constructed in the form of an isosceles triangle, the sides of which are naturally defended by the precipitous banks of the rivulet and sea, the base by a series of parallel aggera, with deep intervening fosses. A covered way appears to have been scooped out of the western side of the rock, by means of which men and provisions might be conveyed from their boats, and introduced into the camp, without risk of annoyance from the missiles of an assailant.

† This coin is now in the possession of the Rev. Andrew Baird, minister of Coldbrandspath. It corresponds exactly with that represented by Figure 22d, Table viii. at page 148th of Camden's *Britannia*. Athelstan was king of Northumbria during the early half of the 10th century, and from his having acquired the fame of being founder of the

With the exception of occasional interruptions from the Danes and Picts, the Saxons retained entire possession of Coldinghamshire till about the commencement of the eleventh century. During this period, the face of the country was diversified by the springing up of numerous Saxon villages or towns. Among the principal of these were Coldingham, Ayton, Lamber-ton, Mordington, Edington, Renton, Great and Little Reston, Peelham, AuldCambus, Chirnside, and Swine-wood, of which the latter no longer exists; and in the adjacent country they formed similar settlements, many of which, with their original names somewhat altered, have continued to be permanent places of residence to the present day. Of those which are still extant, we need only particularize the villages of Paxton, Hutton, Whitsome (Quitesham), Edrom (Ederham), and Swinton; of those which have disappeared, Bondington, Hilton, and Blackadder, afford a sufficient illustration.

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#### CHAPTER IV.

*Outline of the Religious State of the District during the Saxon Period.  
—Influx of Anglo-Norman and Saxon Families.—Aspect of the  
Country.—Its Commerce, &c.*

To the mysterious Druidism of the Britons, of which we have only been able to instance two relics within our district, succeeded the equally superstitious, though somewhat less bloody, idolatry of the Saxons, by whom Coldinghamshire was now peopled. The

English Monarchy, and Lord of Scotland and Wales, he probably styled himself King of All Britain (*Rex Totius Britanniae*) on the same good authority that our own king calls himself King of France.

deities of the latter were supposed to excel in all those qualifications which they admired in their most prudent leaders and bravest warriors. They attributed to them a physical power, adequate for controlling the sea and the tempest, and for directing those wonderful natural phenomena, for which they considered it impossible to account. They possessed, in their judgment, a ferocity in passion, and a degree of desperation in their deeds, proportioned to their intellectual and physical superiority. Their female deities, they are said to have revered, not more for the transcendent share of personal beauty which they assigned them, than for the heroism of their martial exploits. The paradise to which, like other rude nations, they looked forward after death, was one continued round of festivity, occasionally enlivened by the tumult of bloody and successful warfare. Then the soul of the brave Saxon warrior, who fell gloriously fighting under the banner of his chieftain, entered the lofty halls of Thor and Woden, participated in their pleasures, and became invested with their immortality. Similar joys awaited those females, who, during their life-time had been conspicuous for virtue and prowess \*.

\* The south of Scotland contains but few relics of the idolatrous worship of the Saxons. On the north side of Cockburn-law, one of the most conspicuous of the Lammermoor-hills, which rises like a cone, to the height of 912 feet above the level of the sea, are the remains of a curious building, the name of which leads us to conjecture that it may have been a temple, dedicated to the impure worship of the god Woden. It consists, according to my informant, Mr. Blackadder, of three concentric circles, the diameter of the innermost of which measures 54 feet 2 inches. The thickness of the walls is 15 feet 10 inches; and, what is remarkable is, that they contained in their interior eight oval apartments or cells. The second of these circles is 7 feet from the first, and the third 10 feet from the second; the entrance being from the east, by a low and narrow arched door-way. The foundations of a number of small square buildings are traceable on its south-eastern

Such was the religion which prevailed within our district at the close of the sixth century, about which time the light of Christianity, which had heretofore illumined with faint but steady ray, the lone and stormy-girt isle of Iona, began to glimmer upon the barbarous inhabitants of the main-land. The Picts, and then the Saxons on the coast of Northumbria, were gradually compelled to acknowledge its mild and salutary influence. The monk Corman was the first who was deputed to transport it to the shores of the latter, where its scintillations, not being duly nourished, were suffered too soon to expire. Corman returned to Iona to tell to his fellow-labourers the tale of his disappointment. They imputed his failure to the proper cause—a want of zeal and perseverance upon the part of their ambassador—and forthwith despatched the pious Aidan upon a mission, for the arduous labours of which Corman had proved himself to be incompetent. The exertions of the latter, aided by the fostering care of Oswald, the reigning monarch

side; and the whole was environed by a strong wall. Between it and the Whitadder, from which it is about 200 yards distant, there is a very steep intervening bank. The country people in its neighbourhood call it Eden's Hold and Woden's Hall, and ascribe its erection to a free-boasting giant, who long carried on a successful system of depredation, and, shut up in this "his place of power," effectually screened himself from the hands of justice. The large whin-stones, of which the walls of the circular building are constructed, are connected without mortar, by means of deep grooves in their sides. For further particulars respecting this singular erection, we beg to refer the reader to the Scots Magazine for 1759. It may be added, that the temples of Woden were called *Halls* by the Saxons; thus, in the death-song of the intrepid hero Ragnor Lodbrog, occurs the following stanza:—

With glittering swords we urged the fray  
 In Odin's Hall with rich array,  
 A feast and lusty drink I see  
 In foeman's skulls prepared for me.

of that territory, were crowned with a success as brilliant as it was unexpected. Within the short space of seven days, no fewer than fifteen thousand persons are said to have acceded to his doctrines, and to have been accordingly baptized. An episcopal see and monastery were, in consequence, established at Lindisferne in A. D. 635, over both of which Aidan was called to preside.

Much keen disputation has been carried on respecting the rule and tenets inculcated and followed by Aidan and his Northumbrian disciples, nor has any precise or satisfactory elucidation of them been obtained, owing to the obscurity of those manuscripts from which information might have been expected. If we may judge of them, however, from their effects upon those who embraced them, as depicted by Bede, who flourished during the following century, retirement from the bustle and turmoil of the world, mortification of the flesh, and the unbounded exercise of benevolence and charity, were their most prominent characteristics. Their dress and food, their churches and houses, evinced the humility and simplicity of their minds. Their time was either spent at home amid the seclusion of study and devotion, or in itinerating among the villages, instructing the ignorant, visiting the sick, and baptizing such as became converted to their faith. On the Sabbath, their churches were crowded by the multitudes who eagerly flocked to them to hear the word of God from their mouth\*.

Oswald, in his anxiety to promote religious instruction among his southern subjects, did not overlook the interests of those Saxons who inhabited that part of his kingdom which lay upon the northern side of the Tweed. Within that part of the Lindisferne

\* Bede, lib. iii. cap. 3, 17, 26.

bishopric \*, a double monastery, for the reception of both monks and nuns, was speedily erected on a wild headland near Coldingham, which soon afterwards obtained, in honour of its abbess, the name of St. Abb's Head. Thence missionaries were speedily sent forth to preach over the surrounding country the doctrines inculcated by Aidan. This primitive establishment was destined to fall a sacrifice to the fury of those Scandinavian rovers who visited our coast in A. D. 870, spreading around them desolation and blood-shed. Whether our district remained altogether destitute of a place for religious instruction during the two succeeding centuries, is not altogether certain. To the pious gratitude of a Scottish monarch, for aid which he supposed himself to have received from St. Cuthbert, the patron saint of Northumbria, against a formidable adversary, its revival at the close of the eleventh century is certainly to be ascribed. In consequence of this, in 1098, was founded the Priory of Coldingham, a dependancy of Durham, whose his-

\* The boundary of Lindisferne bishopric extended from the Tweed (Tueda) to Warnmouth (Warnamuth), thence upward to the place where the Warn (aqua Warnea) has its rise near the *Hibburdun* hill, and from that hill to the river which is called *Bruuk*, up to its source. Also that land beyond the Tweed, from the place where the Whitadder (flumen Edræ) rises on the north, to the place where it falls into the Tweed; the whole land which lies between the Whitadder, and another river which is called Leader (Leder) on the west; the whole land which lies east of the river called Leder, to that place where it falls into the Tweed on the south, and the land which pertains unto the monastery of St. Baldred (S. Balther) which is called Tiningham, from Lammermoor (Lambermore) to Estmouth (Eskmouth). *Leland's Collectanea*, vol. ii. p. 366. In after years Abercorn and Jedburgh were annexed to it. Simeon of Durham makes it even of greater extent, as he enumerates the following places as lying within its limits—Abercorn, Eduaneburg, Pepperham, Aldham, Tynningham, and Coldingham. [Decem. Script. Col. 69—139.]



tory forms the leading object of our work, and which, for the next five hundred years, held a distinguished place among the monastic institutions of the land.

During the early half of the following century, Coldinghamshire and the greater part of Berwickshire was peopled by Anglo-Norman and Saxon families, who, under the auspices of Edgar and David I. settled in it with their followers. By the liberality of these monarchs, particularly of the latter, they became manorial tenants of various lands, whose names they either imparted or assumed. Now, for the first time, migrated into Scotland the ancestors of the families of Ayton, Edington, Renton, Lumsdean, and others, who, first taking up their abode in the eastern district of Berwickshire, were, in after years, diffused over the whole face of the country. The families of Lamberton, Mordington, Quixwood, and Prendergust, names now seldom or never heard of, during the three succeeding centuries continued of considerable respectability, attesting the greater part of the charters granted to the monastery by the Scottish kings and nobles, and in a few instances signalized themselves by becoming its benefactors. To them are undoubtedly to be ascribed the foundation of those rude piles which disappeared amid the ravages of the sixteenth century, as well as of those whose mouldering fragments of massive architecture still remain to remind us at once of our own insignificance, and of the perishable nature of all human erections.

The general aspect of the country was now very different from what it had been during the earlier years of the Britons and Saxons. Its woods, which were then widely diffused over its surface, were now

solely confined to the sheltered valleys of the Eye and Ale, or to the ravines by which it is here and there intersected \*. The plough had passed over the high-lying ridges, and the declivities at the bases of hills. The homely heath-thatched sanctuary of Ebba was now eclipsed by the stately stone-built priory of Edgar, and on its precipices, and amid its marshes, frowned the square fortlets of the landholders upon the rude villages that had sprung up beneath their walls. On the heights of moorland inaccessible by the plough, and on the dry spots by the margin of the marshes, browsed their numerous herds and flocks, tended by the solitary *dreng* and *villey*.

With the increase of population and agricultural improvement, a certain degree of trade began also to be carried on, of which the chief articles were wool and hides, which were liberally supplied from their extensive pastures. In 1305 a weekly market and a yearly fair were, as has been already observed, estab-

\* Our neighbourhood appears to have been at one time much more extensively wooded than has been allowed by Chalmers and later writers. The mosses of Coldingham-moor present incontrovertible evidence of their having been once covered with wood. Out of these called the *Drone* and *Long Mosses* are frequently dug the trunks of the oak, birch, and hazle, with the nuts of the latter; and portions of the former were, a few years ago, taken up, according to my informant, Mr. Logan, Auchincraw-mains, upon the bleak and high-lying farm of Dulaw. In the charters of William the Lion, woods of the priory which adorned the valley of the Eye, are enumerated as follows:—Greenwood, Reston-wood, Brockhole-wood, Akeside-wood, Kirkdean-wood, Harewood, Swine-wood, and Houndwood, and of these there are still considerable remains. The precipitous banks of the Pease and other rivulets, at the western extremity of the district, were then also densely wooded, and still continue so. By the side of the Ale, near East Press, the trunk of a large oak was exposed about 12 years ago, which measured at the part where it was sawn off from the root 3 feet 2 inches in diameter; and in draining Billie-mire, the roots of oak and other trees were also discovered.

lished at Coldingham by Edward I. ; and from Alexander II. the mayor and bailiffs of Berwick had received a writ, enjoining them to allow free passage to foreign merchants when on their way to the Priory, to purchase wool and other merchandise belonging to the Prior and Monks. During the reign of Alexander III., a colony of Flemish merchants established themselves in Berwick, where, in the street called Wool-market, he built for them a splendid business-mart, called the Redhall. This circumstance leads us to hazard a conjecture, that a company of these enterprising traders had also a settlement and mart within our district, Flemington and Redhall being the names of two places immediately adjacent to each other, within the parish of Ayton\*.

Nor amid this advance of industry and civilization, was the spirit-stirring exercise of the chase abandoned. The pursuit and slaughter of the wild cattle, the red deer, the boars, and perhaps wolves of the forest, were still considered among the most noble occupations by king and peasant. The greatest care was bestowed upon the preservation of these favourite objects of the chase. Malcolm IV. and William the Lion, exacted a heavy penalty from such as were detected hunting in the woods, or over the moors of Coldinghamshire, without permission from the Prior†; and a forester, with an ample salary, was settled in the midst of them, to prevent any infringement of the royal commands. In that part of his hunting domains, called the Houndwood, the Prior established his hunting quarters for

\* The Rev. George Tough, in the recently published Statistical Account of Ayton parish, erroneously hints, that the existence of this Flemish colony is corroborated by tradition. When the author furnished him with materials for the article Civil History, he merely gave it as a conjecture of his own; tradition being altogether silent on the subject.

† See their charters in Part II.

the accommodation of himself and his gay associates, whence sallying forth at break of day, they pursued the startled boar from his covert; and when the chase was over, planted in triumph his grisly head upon the festive board of the refectory.

It does not appear from our documents that the monks or other inhabitants of our district devoted much of their attention to the practice of "the gentle art," though this is not improbable. Their sea fisheries are not in a single instance mentioned in the charters, but they seem to have prized and carefully preserved the grants made them by William de Mordington and others, of stationary salmon fisheries on the Tweed\*.

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## CHAPTER V.

*Submission of the Berwickshire Clergy and Barons to Edward I.—Robert de Bruce's Visit to Coldinghamshire.—Amicable Meetings at Ayton, Habbchester, and Billie-mire.—Rise of the Homes.—Skirmish at Millerton-hill.—The Towers of Edrington, Hutton-hall, Edington and Ayton, overthrown by Surrey.*

BEFORE proceeding farther in our history, it may be proper for us here to enquire what part the inhabitants espoused in the arduous struggle which about this period had commenced for the sovereignty of Scotland. Dependant upon the mother church of Durham, the Prior and the Clergy of Coldinghamshire found it expedient to swear allegiance to the haughty and ambitious Edward. The barons being of Anglo-Norman or Saxon origin, and having therefore little interest in the preservation of the ancient independence of the Scot-

\* The charters of William de Mordington and Clerebaldus de Esseby in App. to Part II.

tish nation, were led to pursue the same course. Accordingly, when that monarch attended at Berwick in the years 1292 and 1296, for the purpose of receiving the homage of his northern vassals, Henry de Horn-castre, then Prior of Coldingham, with the majority of the clergy and barons of the Merse, did not fail to obey the summons, and acknowledge the *justice* of his claim, whereupon they were re-invested in their offices and estates\*.

The revolution of twenty years more saw the crown of Scotland placed upon the head of Robert Bruce, and her independence, as a nation, sealed with blood upon the reeking plains of Bannockburn. With a generosity characteristic of a great mind, Bruce not only forgave the monks and barons for the hostile part

\* The following list of Berwickshire clergy and barons, who swore fealty to Edward I. at Berwick in June and August 1296, is made up from the volumes of Prynn and Rymer, and from the rolls of Parliament:—

Religiosus vir frater Henricus, Prior de Coldingham, Robertus de Lamberton, Henry de Lamberton, Gregory de Coldingham, Henricus de Prendergest, Petrus de Morington, Adam de Lums-dean, Wilhelmus Ramsaye de Fulden, Robertus de Ramsaye, Parsona de Fulden, Wilhelmus de Blida, Parsona de Chirenside, David custos Hospitalis de Aldecambus, Bernardus de Lynton, Parsona de Mor-dynton, Thomas parsona de Huton, Robert de Paxton, Prior Hospitalis St. Johannis Jerisolm, apud Huton, Wilhelmus vicarius ecclesiæ de Ederham, Radulphus de Hauden parsona de Whytesum, Alexander de Bonkille, Henricus de Lemoton, Parsona de Duns, David parsona de Hilton, Alan de Langton, Nicholaus de Camb vicarius de Grenelaw, Adam Lamb parsona de Poulesworthe, Henricus de Striveling parsona de Upsetlington, Willielmus de Swynton vicarius de Swynton, Priorissa de Eccles, &c. From the same sources we learn, that Philip de Rydale, the Mayor of Berwick, and the burgesses, made similar submission in the parish church, with the following Governors of the religious house there, viz. Agnes de Berinham, Priorissa de Berwyck, Minister Ordinis Sanctæ Trinitatis et Captivorum de Berwyc, Willielmus vicarius Ecclesiæ Stæ Trinitatis de Berwyc, Magister Hospitalis beatæ Mariæ Magdalenzæ extra Berwyk.

which they acted toward him, whilst he struggled against the superior forces of the English usurper, but confirmed the charters granted to them by preceding monarchs, and endowed them with additional benefactions.

About the middle of December 1317, he led his army into our district, and encamped at Auldcambus. Edward II. had this time experienced the difficulty of subjugating a nation which had once been ruled by independent sovereigns, and instead of prosecuting further a pursuit so hopeless, was now alarmed for the security of his own throne. In this emergency he applied to Pope John, who then swayed the ecclesiastic sceptre at Avignon, who, relying upon the power of his supreme authority, and anxious to conciliate the favour of Edward, appointed a truce to be entered into between England and Scotland, excommunication being the penalty with which its infringement by either party was to be visited. Notwithstanding that Bruce had previously declared his determination to listen to no terms of pacification, till his title of King of Scotland was acknowledged by the Pontiff, his legates despatched Adam Newton, superior of the monastery of Franciscan friars in Berwick, to proclaim, in presence of Bruce, the bull by which the contemplated truce was enjoined \*. The Scottish king and his army were busily engaged in a wood near the village of Auldcambus, felling trees, and preparing engines for a siege, when Newton arrived to announce to him the imperious mandate. Despite the doom by which its rejection

\* The monastery of Franciscan, Grey, or Minorite Friars, over which Adam Newton presided, was, of course, of the Mendicant Order; and, according to Dugdale, owed its foundation to the liberality of Sir John de Grey, A. D. 1219. Newton's own account of his reception at Auldcambus will be found in *Fædera Anglica*, iii. p. 633—4.

was threatened, Bruce sternly refused to admit the friar to his presence, who was thus compelled to rest satisfied with proclaiming it in presence of his army. He was then contemptuously dismissed, and on his way home was way-laid by four men, and stripped of his papers, and even his clothes. For this outrage and contempt of his authority, his Holiness soon afterwards passed sentence of excommunication upon Bruce and his followers \*.

During the two subsequent reigns there are no events for us to record which bear more particularly upon our district than on the borders generally. Without staying to notice the disastrous battles of Halidon-hill and Nisbet-moor, the former of which was fought in 1333, the latter in 1355, upon its immediate confines, we shall here briefly notice two truces which the unsettled state of the borders caused soon afterwards to be entered into within our limits.

On the 12th day of June 1380, in accordance with an agreement made between the Bishops of Dunkeld and Glasgow, and the Earls of Douglas, March, and Galloway, the Earl of Carrick, eldest son of the Scottish king Robert, met John Duke of Lancaster in the Church of Ayton, for the purpose of adjusting mutual grievances, both parties complaining of a breach of the truce which had been concluded by the late kings. After a debate of several days, the meet-

\* Barbour, xvii. 83—128. When the sentence of excommunication was passed, Bernard de Lynton, Abbot of Arbroath, convened the Scottish barons at his monastery, 6th April 1320, among whom was his former patron, the celebrated Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray and Baron of Mordington, when they drew up an address to the Pope, alike remarkable for its bold and manly language, as for the magnanimity of spirit which it breathed. Bernard had formerly been parson of Mordington, and composed a poem on the battle of Bannockburn, the surviving fragment of which is printed in the App. No. 2.

ing broke up, the English having wished the matter to be left to the decision of some foreign monarch, to which the Scots would by no means agree, assigning, as the cause of their compliance, the difficulty of selecting a prince equally acceptable to both parties, and the danger of a foreign power afterwards founding on such an appeal a claim of superiority. On the 18th of the same month, however, they came to a temporary settlement, at a convention which they had at the ancient British encampment of Habchester \*. On the 25th August following, special commissioners met by the side of Billy-mire—an extensive morass extending from the river Eye toward the Whitadder, when they came to a final agreement as to the way in which the breaches of the truce were to be mutually repaired †.

During the year 1384, on the breaking out of fresh disturbances, another meeting of illustrious individuals belonging to both nations was held in the church of Ayton ‡. And on the 27th January 1386, another

\* Rymer's Fædera.

† Rymer's Fædera. Ridpath's Bord. Hist. In former days Billy-mire, from its length, which was about 6 miles, and from its being passable only at two places by horses over causeways, formed by plunging large stones into the quagmire, must have formed an admirable natural defence to the Scots against invasions of the English. The course of one of these causeways is indicated by a place on the southern side of the morass called Causeway-Bank; and the remains of the other are still discernible, about 18 feet in width by 8 or 10 in depth, on the line of road between Chirnejde and Auchincraw. Several fortlets erected in its neighbourhood, added to the security of this important pass. These were Billy Castle, hereafter noticed more particularly, Fairy Castle, and one upon the farm now called Oldcastles. The foundations of a fourth were last summer exposed at Stone-shiel, the property of John Hunter, Esq. At the expiration of a truce, the causeways were uniformly demolished, so far as would obstruct the passage from the south side of the Mire.

‡ The following commissioners met in Ayton Church:—John Fordham, Lord Bishop of Durham, John, Lord of Raby, John Waltham,



treaty was concluded at Billy-mire, between the Scottish wardens, the Earls of March and Douglas, and Lord Neville, warden of the English marches, which from its singularity we have been induced to print.\*

During the succeeding century, our district appears to have been in a most deplorable condition, and suffered, not more from the borderers of the English marches than from those of the Scottish side of the Tweed; and this state of things continued notwithstanding the interference of the kings of both nations. In short, much of the country surrounding Coldingham had recently been granted to English adventurers, who, perhaps dissatisfied with what was allotted them, employed themselves in devastating the property of the original Saxon and Norman inhabitants. A race of warlike chieftains was, however, now fast rising into power, which was destined at once to hold in check the irruptive forces of the English, to quell the discord which prevailed among the new settlers, and finally to appropriate to themselves no small share of their possessions. This was the family of Home, which, at the period of which we write, possessed only the estates of Wedderburn and Dunglass, with the bailiery of the Priory of Coldingham, but which, ere another century had revolved, had become proprietors of by far the greater part of Berwickshire.

The origin of this race, like that of most other border clans, is somewhat obscure, though the commonly received opinion is, that they sprang from Ada, daughter of Patrick, Earl of March, who died in 1232.

Sub-dean of York, on the part of England; John, Earl of Murray, Archibald Douglas, Lord of Galloway, James Douglas, Lord Dalkeith, Thomas Erskine, and Master Duncan, Little Provost of St. Andrews, for the King of Scots. Rymer.

\* See App. No. 3.

This lady received from her father, as ~~her portion~~, the lands in the west of Berwickshire called Home; when she married a gentleman named de Courtenay, who shortly afterwards died without issue. Ada's second husband, William of Greenlaw, ~~second son~~ of the fourth Gospatrick, Earl of March, and who consequently was her own cousin, is said to have assumed the name of Home from his wife's lands, and, having issue, is thus supposed to have been the founder of the family. Upon this subject the observations of Home of Godscroft, in the Manuscript History of the House of Wedderburn, contrary to our expectations, tend to throw but little light. "I will not," says he, "deduce them from the ancient Barus, who flourished during the second age, nor thence from the ancient name of Dunbars, Earls of March. These things are written, as I hear, and let others write them if they will, I shall not invade on that work. They are also common to many, whereas my intention does not extend farther than to write those things that are peculiar to the house of Wedderburn, whereof it is sufficient to say, that it is reported that a son of the Earl of March, who, when he had overcome in combat a certain French champion who was going about every where seeking fighting, his father, on account of his bravery, gave him the lands of Home (where now the citadel of that name standeth); and it is the received opinion that he took the name of Home from this place, and transmitted it to posterity. But this I neither affirm nor pretend to refute; and although I do not reckon this report void of foundation, yet I rather incline to accede to another, which is confirmed both by ancient monuments and oral tradition. A certain man named Philip, holding both the king and the law at defiance, headed a numerous troop of robbers, who, lurking

always in woods and solitudes, could not be taken but by a regular army. He possessed two strongholds, from which he harassed the Earl of March, who dwelt in that neighbourhood, the one on the top of the rock of Home, the other three or four miles distant, which was fortified by a triple wall and ditch, and to this day goes by the name of Philip-staines. William, a son of the Earl's, having once accidentally met this robber, slew him, and carried his head to his father, and the king, for this action, made him a grant of Home and the lands thereto belonging. Hence is descended the clan of the Homes, and it is from thence that they have taken their name, calling themselves of *Home*."

During the earliest part of their history, this warlike clan acknowledged as their chieftains the Earls of March, whose vassals they were. When George Earl of March sided with the English against his countrymen however, they no longer considered him as their feudal superior. They then rallied round the proud standard of the Douglasses, and fought under it at the bloody field of Homildon in 1402, against Henry Percy and their former chieftain, George Earl of March. On the annexation of that Earldom to the Crown in 1435, they emerged from their dependant condition as vassals, and were elevated to the rank of manorial tenants under the Crown. At the conclusion of this century they had arrived at the height of their power. Holding most of the important offices upon the eastern marches, as well as possessing the greater part of the land, they exercised the authority of border barons over a numerous host of vassals and dependants, and even over the estates and persons of such of the neighbouring proprietors as did not promptly aid them in the prosecution of their ambitious schemes. Once gained, they

did not allow their property to be wrested from them either by a foreign or domestic power. The truth of this, Percy, Earl of Northumberland, and James III., King of Scotland, successively experienced. According to Godscroft, about the year 1467, when Percy, with an army of 5000 men, had advanced into their territories as far as Auldcambus, plundering and devastating whatever came in his way, he was assailed on his return homeward, laden with booty, by a party of 800 borderers under George Home of Wedderburn at Millerton-hill, in Ayton parish, and obliged to retreat to Berwick, leaving behind him his spoil, and several of his men slain, wounded, and taken prisoners. A more deplorable disaster, however, befell the poor king. In 1488, having obtained the Pope's consent to his annexing the revenues of Coldingham Priory to his chapel at Stirling, the whole clan, enraged at the thoughts of being deprived of what they had been accustomed to consider their own, rushed headlong into that rebellion which cost the king his life\*.

They formed a part of that formidable army with which James IV. in 1497 invaded England, in support

\* It is rather remarkable, that in the list of places in Berwickshire destroyed by the Duke of Gloucester, during his disastrous inroad of 1482, none of the places which then belonged to the Homes are enumerated, except Kimergham and Hutton-hall, while there are not a few belonging to the Priory. The list is rather singular, as several places are mentioned, now unknown by the names which they then bore. The following is a copy:—Edryngton, Paxton, Fishewike, Brandike, Hooton (Hutton), Heton Hall (Huttonhall), Mordynton and the Bastile, Plomethorne and the toune, Bhroweshed and the Steple, Bromehill and the Bastile, Edram, Est Nesbit, Blakater, and the Banke won, Kallow, and the Kamargan, Whitsomelawa, Bryntenyn, and Ryselaw, Elbanke, Hokas, Betroside, Grneslaw (Earnslaw?) and the Bastile won. Hilton and Whitsome, Mykyll Swynton and the Bastile, Little Swynton and the Bastile, Simprone, and Harden, Crossrige, and Whiteside, Edynham, &c.—Hall's Chronicle, fol. 54.

of the pretensions of Perkin Warbeck, who gave himself out to be the second son of Edward IV., who was supposed to have been murdered in the Tower of London. Not receiving such a welcome from the English as Warbeck had been led to expect, after devastating the counties of Northumberland and Durham, James slowly led back his army into Berwickshire, on learning that a superior force was marching against him headed by the redoubted Earl of Surrey. The latter closely pursued the Scottish army in their retreat, and in retaliation of the ravages it had spread beyond the Tweed, overthrew several of the strongholds of the Houses and others, situated in our neighbourhood. "When the Earl was entered into Scotland," says Grafton in his Chronicle, "he ouerthrewe and defaced the Castell of Cawdrestenes, the Towre of Hetenhall; the Towre of Edington, the Towre of Fulten; and he sent Norrey, king at armes, to the Capitsayns of Hayton Castell (Ayton Castle), which was one of the strongest places betweene Berwyke and Edenborough, to deliuer him the Castell, which he denied to doe, affirming that he was sure of speedie succours and swift aide. The Erle perceauing the deniall, layd his ordinaunce to the Castell, and continually bet it from two of the clock in the morning til fve at night, in such wise that they within rendered up the fortresse, their lyues onely saued. And when the Erle had receyued the Scottes, he with his miners rased and ouerthrewe the Castell to the playne grounde. The Scottishe king was within a myle of the seige, and both knewe it, and sawe the smoke, and yet would not once set a foote forward to saue or rescue his Castell. And while the Erle laye at Hayton, the king of Scottes sent to him Marchmount and another Heralde, desyring him at his

choyse eyther to fight with whole puyssaunce agaynst puyssaunce, or else they two to fight person to person, and hande to hande, requiring that if the victorie should fall to the Scottishe king, that then the Erle should deliuer for his ransome the towne of Berwyke, with the Fyshegarthes of the same. The Erle, ioyously lyke a couragious Capytayne, receyed this message and made aunswere, that he was readie in the playne fielde to abide the battayle with his whole armye, praiyng him to come forward with hys puyssaunce, and after that he thanked him hartily of the honour that he offered him, for surely he thought himselfe much honored that so Noble a Prince would vouchsafe to admit so poore an Erle to fight with him body to body, assertenynge him farther that the towne of Berwyke was the king his maister's and not his, ye which he neither ought nor would laye to pledge nor gage without the king's assent; but he would put his body in pledge, which was more precious to him than all the townes of the world, promising on his honour, that if he tooke the king prisoner in the single combate that he woulde release to him all his part of his fine and raunsome, and if it chaunced the king to vanquishe and apprehende him, he woulde pay gladly such a raunsome as was mete and conuenient for the degree of an Erle. And when he had rewarded and dismissed the Heraulds, he set his armie in a readiness, abidyng the comming of the king of Scots, and so stood all daye. But the Scottishe king not regarding his offers nor performing his great crakes and boastes, beyng afrayde to cope with the Englishe nation, shamefully and sodeynly fled in the night season with all his power and company. When the Erle knewe that the king was returned, and had been in Scotland sixe or seuen dayes, beyng daylie and nightlie

vexed with continuall winde and vnmeasurable rayne, he could not cause his people to continue in *that tempestuous and infertyle and barrein region*, with good aduise retreated agayne with his whole armie to the towne of Berwike, and there dispersed his armie every man into his Countrie, taryng there himself til he knowe the pleasure of the king in furthering or protracting the warres of Scotlande \*."

\* Grafton's Chronicle, vol. ii. pp. 210, 211. The castle of Cawdre-stenes, mentioned in the above extract, was probably Edrington Castle, which then belonged to a family named Pressin. Edrington-mills were then called the Caw-mills. Hutton-hall and Aytton Castle then belonged to the Homes.—Edington and Foulkes Towers to families called Lauder and Ramsay. In his dramatic Chronicle of Perkin Warbeck, Ford makes Surrey taunt the Scots with allowing these places to be demolished, without attempting to retaliate, in the following lines:—

Are all our braving enemies shrunk back ;  
Hid in the foggies of their disteinped climate,  
Not daring to behold our colours wave  
In spite of this infected ayre ? Can they  
Look on the strength of Cundrestine defact ;  
The glory of Heydon-hall devastated, that  
Of Edinton cast downe ; the pile of Fuldren  
Ouerthrowne ; and this the strongest of their forts  
Old Aytton Castle yielded and demolished,  
And yet not peepe abroad ? The Scots are bold  
Hardie in battayle, but it seems the cause  
They undertake consider'd, appears  
Unjointed in the frame on't, &c. &c.

And in his Marmion, Sir Walter Scott makes his hero say,

I have not ridden in Scotland since  
James backed the cause of that mock prince  
Warbeck, that Flemish counterfeit  
Who on the gallows played the cheat ;  
Then did I march with Surrey's power  
That time we razed old Aytton tower.

## CHAPTER VI.

*The Princess Margaret's Visit to Lamberton and Fast Castle.—The Prior of Coldingham and others slain at the battle of Flodden.—The Regent Albany enters our district to punish Lord Home, Angus and the Prior of Coldingham.—The Strongholds of Fast Castle, Billie, Renton, &c. taken.—Execution of Lord Home.—Slaughter of De la Bastie.—Murder of David Home, Prior of Coldingham.*

WHEN James IV., tired of a life of celibacy, had successfully sought for his bride Margaret, daughter of Henry VII. of England, that princess passed through our district escorted by one of the finest cavalcades of the day. John Young, the Somerset herald, who accompanied the young bride on her journey to the Scottish court, minutely recorded the manner in which she was entertained at the different places through which she passed. "On the xxx and xxxi days of July 1502," according to this veritable authority, "the quene tarried at Barwyk, where she had grete chere of the said Capyteyne of Barwyk (Sir Thomas Darcy) and hyr company in likewys."

"That sam day was by the said Capyteyne, to the pleasure of the said Quene, gyffen courses of chasse within the said town, with other sports of bayrs and of doggs togeder."

"The first day of August the Quene departed from Barwyk for to go to Lamberton kerke in varrey fair company and well appoynted."

"First of the said Archbyschops and Bischops, the Erles of Surrey and of Northumberland, the Lord Dacres, the Lord Scroop and his son, the Lord Gray, the Lord Latimer, the Lord Chamberlain, Maister Polle, and other Nobles and Knyghts. The young gentylmen were well appoynted at their devises, and ther



was fou much of cloth of gold as of other ryche rayments. Their horsys frysk in harnays of the selfe : and of thos orfavery, sum others had campaynes gytt, the others campaynes of sylver. Gambades at plasur that it was a fayr thyng for to se."

"The sayd Erle of Northumbrelaund was varey well mounted, hys horse rychly appoynted, his harnays of gold in brodeux, hymselfe in a jakette betten of gold, well wrought in goldsmith werke, and brodery and in a cloke of porple, borded of cloth of gold. His Hensmen appoynted as before mentioned. Incontinently before hym rode the Maister of his Horse, conveying the sam thre Hensmen arayed in jaketts all of orfavery and brodery, and ther harnays of their horsys in such wys of orfavery and brodery full of small bells that maid a grett noyse. After those cam a gentylman ledying in his haund a corser, covered to the grownde of a vary rich trapure betten of gold of orfavery and brodery in oraunge. And ichon of the sam a gren tre in the manere of a pyne, and maid the said Lord pannades and the weigited varey honestly."

"After cam the said Qwene varey rychly arayde and enorned with gold and precyous stones, sytting in hyr lytere rychly appoynted. Her fotemen always ny to hyr well appoynted, and monted upon fayr pallefrys, and their harnays ryche in appareyll."

"After cam her char rychely appoynted,ournysched of ladyes and gentylwomen well appoynted, and after that sum other gentylwomen on horsebak honorably appoynted."

"The said Cappetayne of Barrwyk and my lady hys wyffe accompayned of many gentylmen and gentylwomen rychly arayde and clothed of a liveray went with the said Qwene to Edenburghe."

"Before the said Qwene war by ordre Johannes

and hys company (of players) and Henry Gloscebery and hys company, the trompetts, officers of armes and sergeants of mace, so that at the departing out of the said Barrwyk and at hyr Bedwarde at Lamberton Kirke it was a joy for to see and heare."

"In such stat and array the said Qwene came out of Barwyk, ichon by ordre, the Lords and Nobles three and three togeder to the said Lamberton kirke, and the company behind well appoynted and in fair array, that it was estemed that thar war of the parte of the said Qwene xviii C or two M horsys well appoynted."

"Before the said Scottysmen passed the Lords knights and gentylmen makynge Gambauds to the grett Gowre. And when the Qwene was come, the said byschop of Morrey, the said archbyschop (of Glasgow) and the said Counte of Northumberlaunde avaunced toward hyr, and then knelling downe to the grounde mayde the Receyvinge. Ther was in presence the Archbyschop of York, the Bischop of Durham and the Erle of Surrey. After thys sche was brought to the Pavyllon ordonned for Recreacyon, and ny to that same sche was helped downe and kissed of the said Lords, and by them sche was brought to the Pavyllon wher no body entered except the Lords and Ladyes. And within the same was a Lady of the Countre, clothed with Scarlatte, with Gentylwomen appoynted after ther gyse who had brought sum new Fruyts."

"Ny to that sam Pavyllon war other thre. The one for the Pannetry, the tother for the Boutry, the tother for the Kytchen; And ther ichon delibered hymselfe to make good chere and drynke. For ther was plante of Bred and Wyne so that ichon was contente."

"After the Receyving doon, ichon put himself agayn in ordre, and the Qwene monted on Horsebak. The said Lord of Northumberland maid his Devor at the Departyng of Gambauds and Lepps, as did lykewyse the Lord Scrop the Father and many others who retorned agayn, in taking their Congies. And of the Companie abydyng the Qwene was conveyed to hyr Lodgyng of Fast Castell, wher she was welcomed by the Lord of the said place and of the Lady sister of the said Bischop of Morrey."

"The Companie was lodged at the Abbay of Codyngham and in the Towne, where was ordonned Mett and Drynke for them, and also Liveray for their Horsys of Hay and Otts, ychon to his Quantyte."

"The Nombre of the Scotts at the Mettyng of the said Qwene war by Estymacyon a thousand Personnes, wherof ther might be vC Horsys of the thousand of grett price and well appoynted. And of the Companie passyng thorough with hyr to the Ryhme of Scotland war in Nombre betwixt v and vi C well horsyd and appoynted."

"The ij day of the said monneth the said Qwene departed from the said Fast Castell nobly appoynted and accompayned. And at the Departyng, they schott much ordonnance and had a very good chere and soe that every man was contente\*."

From Fast Castle this princely train proceeded into Lothian by the Path of Pease, and staid during the night at the nunnery of Haddington. Next day they

\* Paper in the 2d volume of Leland's Collectanea, entitled, "The Fyancelles of Margaret, eldest daughter of King Henry VII. to James, King of Scotland; together with her departure from England, journey into Scotland, her reception and marriage there, and the great feasts held on that account. Written by John Younge, Somerset Herald, who attended the Princess on her journey."

reached the Scottish metropolis, where the royal nuptials were consummated "amid the din of wassail, rout and revelry." This scene of joy was soon to be succeeded by one of woe and sadness, and the voice of mirth drowned in the dirge of Flodden field. The Homes having, under Alexander Lord Home in 1518, made an unsuccessful inroad into England, and being forced to make a precipitate retreat, James levied one of the finest armies which Scotland ever sent forth, and invaded England. The disastrous battle of Flodden was the result, and Scotland had at once to mourn the fall of her king and the flower of her chivalry. In common with every part of the kingdom, our district had to deplore the result of that rash enterprize. Among those who fell connected with it, the most illustrious individual certainly was Alexander Stewart, natural son of the King, who, with other high ecclesiastical offices, held that of Prior of Coldingham. He had but a short time previously returned from abroad, where he had highly distinguished himself by his virtues and learning. Cuthbert Home, the lord of Fast Castle, the baron of Blackader, David Home of Wedderburn, and his son George, there also met a bloody fate \*. Besides these, upwards of eighty of the clan of Home were slain.

\* The bloody banner in which the body of the slaughtered knight of Wedderburn was conveyed from the field, is still preserved in the Charter Chest of the Family. Godscroft, in his manuscript history, states, that after the Homes had defeated that part of the English army to which they were opposed, Wedderburn "having used all the arguments in his power with Lord Home and the Earl of Huntly, that they would go to the assistance of the royal army, which was then in the utmost danger; but when he could not persuade them, though the action was already lost, he, with his own company, hastened thither; and when nothing else was in his power, he left this proof of his faith and love towards his prince, that he, together with his eldest son George, died bravely fighting. This George was a youth of great expectation, and his father (as

Their chieftain, Lord Home, has been accused, by popular calumny and many of our historians, with having acted the part of a coward and traitor to his sovereign on the field. That he stood aloof during the closing scene of the battle, or rather massacre, may be believed from the statement made by his kinsman Godscroft, and given in a subjoined note; but this conduct does not appear to have originated in cowardice, or in any disinclination to save his sovereign from the fate which was then visibly impending over him. In fact Home had already shewn indubitable proofs both of his courage and loyalty, in having vanquished the right wing of the English army, commanded by Sir Edmund Howard; and by the time that this had been accomplished, the main body of the Scottish forces had, by their precipitant and mistimed valour, so disordered their ranks, as to render the interference of any earthly power totally inadequate to quell the torrent of blood in which they were on the point of being swallowed up. If cowardice or treachery were there manifested on the part of Lord Home, it was the cowardice and treachery of a prudent general, which it would have been well for Scotland had more of her leaders displayed on that disastrous day.

Notwithstanding the aspersions unjustly cast upon his character, the influence and power of Lord Home and his family continued unbounded till the year 1515, when the charge of the infant King was withdrawn from the widowed Margaret, and conferred upon the Duke of Albany. The office of Warden of the Eastern

the fate of war is uncertain) sent him home, that they might not perish together. As he was refreshing and diverting himself at Coldstream with the Abbess of the Monastery, some woman or other upbraided him with cowardice. He being affected with the reproach, quickly returned to his father, and arrived the very moment the action was to begin, nor could he be persuaded to return."—MS. Hist. of the Homes.

Marches, and many of his recently acquired estates, were now wrested from Lord Home, and assigned to the Regent by Parliament. Such an unexpected remuneration for the services of their chieftain, did not fail to kindle resentment in the breasts of the Homes. Leaguings with the young and ambitious Earl of Angus, who had aspired at and won the hand of the Queen Dowager, though the honours to which he had looked forward, as its accompaniment, were enjoyed by Albany, Lord Home made a bold attempt at rescuing the young King from the hand of his keepers. This intrigue, however, was defeated by the vigilance of the Regent, and the parties connected in it were compelled to seek shelter on the Borders. Angus, with his royal consort, fled first to Lamberton, and then to Coldstream nunnery, where he continued for some days, till he received from Henry VIII. his brother-in-law, permission to enter England. Home now stimulated his kinsmen and vassals to put their fortalices into such condition as might enable them to withstand the forces which the Regent was preparing to lead against them.

Having mustered an army, amounting to about ten thousand men, on the Borough-moor at Edinburgh, Albany entered our district by the Pass of Pease. He succeeded in taking from the Homes their strong fortress of Fast Castle, and planted in it a garrison of his own men. Thence proceeding inland, the ravages of fire and sword marked his course. The fortalices of Renton and Blackadder were razed, and those of Billy, Buncle, Wedderburn and Hume forced to surrender. The Homes, however, soon succeeded in re-taking Fast Castle from the Regent's soldiery, and levelled its walls. Lord Home, accompanied by his two brothers William and David, the

latter of whom was Prior of Coldingham, fled into England to solicit assistance from Henry, the cause of whose sister they had espoused. Disappointed in the hopes of support from the English monarch which he had indulged, he speedily returned to the Scottish frontier, where a snare was laid for him by the wily Albany. An offer of amnesty was now held out to him, and an invitation sent from the Regent to meet him in the hall of his own castle of Dunglass, which Home, unsuspecting of any evil intentions, readily accepted. No sooner had he arrived, than he was arrested, hurried off to Edinburgh, and confined in the castle. Thus far had the Regent succeeded, by a dishonourable stratagem, in securing the person of one who had shewn such open and formidable opposition to his authority; and, from what is known of his character, there can be little doubt that sanguinary measures were contemplated for arresting the turbulent career of his captive. But if such was the case, his intentions were for the present effectually frustrated. The Earl of Arran, to whose custody the border chieftain was consigned, happened to be his brother-in-law, and readily allowing his prisoner to escape, fled with him to the west, where, rallying their vassals around them, they once more set the Regent at defiance. Here they were soon reinforced by Angus and his followers; but on Albany marching against them at the head of a numerous and well-disciplined army, the insurgents were obliged to disperse. Home sought shelter once more among his border fortresses, and by the intercession of the English monarch, he and Angus were allowed for some time to enjoy their estates and honours in peace\*.

\* Godscroft's MS.; Holinshead's Chronicle, vol. ii. p. 154.; Ridpath's Border History, p. 167. According to the two last authorities,

But though the Regent hesitated for a time, through deference to Henry, to follow out the dictates of his odious policy against the Homes, he at length embraced what he considered a favourable opportunity, of putting his blood-thirsty designs into execution. A parliament was summoned to meet at Edinburgh in September 1516. The most anxious solicitations were made to the Homes to attend, and even the most flattering promises of preferment and reward held out to them; while at the same time they were, with all possible courtesy, led to understand, that their non-attendance would be construed into a tacit avowal of contempt of the Regent's authority. Disposed to place but little confidence in the words of a man who had already so grossly belied himself by his conduct at Dunglass, Lord Home hesitated long to entrust himself within his power. But the artifices of Albany ultimately prevailed over the reiterated dissuasions of his friends and kinsmen. Accompanied by his brother William, he repaired to Edinburgh, where he met with such a favourable reception from the Regent at Holyrood as too effectually lulled to rest the suspicions of further treachery, which lurked within his breast. His brother, whom he had left behind him in the town, was now invited to the Court; but no sooner had he entered, than the gates were closed upon them—their persons arrested—and all means of escape or rescue cut off. They were

Lord Home and Angus were comprehended in a truce, which was concluded at Coldingham on the 17th day of January 1516, between English and Scottish Commissioners, the latter of whom are thus enumerated by Holinshead, &c. "For the realme of Scotland were these; Monsieur de Planes, the French ambassador, the Archdeacon of St. Andrews, Mr. Gawin de Dunbar, and Sir William Scott of Balvearie, knights."



soon after tried by a jury of their peers, and convicted of many crimes for which they had long before been pardoned. However flagrant, however subversive of good government, their conduct may have been, the procedure of Albany must ever be reprobated in his punishing men for offences for which amnesty had been openly offered and accepted, and still more in employing such despicable craft in decoying his victims within his toils. In accordance with their sentence, both of the noblemen were subjected to the death of traitors—Lord Home on the eighth, and his brother on the ninth day of October, 1516, and their lifeless heads exposed to the gaze of the multitude.

The full measure of bloodshed had not yet, however, been doled out to the Homes. Partly to gratify the miscreant Albany, and partly in retaliation of the supposed slight he had received from the late Lord Home, who had advanced the interest of Bishop Forman to the see of St. Andrew's in opposition to the pretensions of his kinsman, James Hepburn, the chieftain of Hailes and other desperadoes soon afterwards assassinated David Home, the Prior of Coldingham. He was the youngest brother of the late Lord, and his chief crime was that of being a member of that family, which it was Albany's object to humble and overthrow.

The Homes spent nearly a year in meditating revenge of the death of their kinsmen. Godscroft thus describes their state of feeling after these tragical events. "All men groaned at so miserable a slavery under a foreigner. Themselves were insulted; the very Scottish nation was held in contempt by the French for so easily yielding to the yoke, and so submissively obeying a foreigner, and he too none of the most illustrious. The very common people were

enraged at this, and lamented the degeneracy of the nobles, first, for setting over them such a man, and then for so peaceably obeying him. What increased their indignation was their lost liberty, and nobody appearing to vindicate it. But all men shewed their discontent at these things in their words only, and remained quiet, none putting hand to the work, but every man waiting till another should begin, till at length David Home of Wedderburn, having not so much sought an opportunity, as seized one when it offered, lent his aid to begin and bring about the nation's liberty."

Albany having left the supreme government of the kingdom, during his absence, in the hands of the Earls of Arran, Huntly, and Argyle, now retired for a season to France, leaving the government of the eastern and middle marches of Merse and Teviotdale in the hands of a Frenchman, called Anthony D'Arcey, whose handsome person had also procured for him the title of "Seigneur de la Beauté." With this important office, the castles of Dunbar and Home were placed under the command of this foreigner; from the latter of these strongholds, "as it was high above the adjacent country, he looked down upon the Homes, as from a watch-tower, at the same time, shewing them his triumph at the slaughter of the chief of their clan, and reproaching them for submitting to his yoke." De la Beauté was not long allowed the enjoyment of his newly acquired honours. Home of Wedderburn and he having quarrelled in the neighbourhood of Langton, the warden was obliged to consult his safety by flight. His horse having accidentally stumbled, he was soon overtaken, and butchered by the followers of the border baron. His head was carried to the castle of Home, and fixed, in savage

triumph, upon the highest battlement of its towers. This atrocious murder was perpetrated on the ninth day of September 1517, scarcely a year after the execution of Lord Home, which was by this new act of bloodshed supposed to be in some degree avenged.

Godscroft enters into a minute detail of the particulars of this sanguinary fray, and labours hard to exculpate Wedderburn from the charge brought against him, of having premeditated the assassination of Bastie. He tells us that the circumstances which gave rise to it were as follows: Cockburn of Langton had died, leaving Cockburn of Clarkington in Lothian, and Chirnside of East Nesbit in the Merse, curators to his young son. William Cockburn, the late Baron's brother, who had married a sister of Home's, "being a brisk man," was enraged at being deprived of an office which he considered belonged to him both by the ties of blood and the custom of the country. He, with the aid of his brother-in-law Wedderburn, laid siege to Langton Castle, upon which the curators had seized. The warden, who happened to be at Kelso, hearing of these violent doings, which tended little to the preservation of quiet within the territory that had been consigned to his care, summoned Wedderburn to meet him on the following day on his road between Kelso and Dunbar, which the latter agreed to do, on condition that he should be allowed full liberty of returning when he thought proper. They met about two miles north from Kelso, and for some time conversed together amicably enough; but at last Bastie insisted on Wedderburn using his influence with Cockburn and the other besiegers, to induce them to abandon the siege, which he flatly refused to do. "After long altercation, it at length came to this, that Beauté, unable to contain his

smothered rage, with a threatening voice and countenance, said, that he laid it upon him as a command to force them to raise the siege, which if he did not do, he would bring ruin both upon himself and them. To these things David answered that he had come here only on being promised allowance of a safe return, that he would return home, and then he might do what he had a mind. Upon this he immediately stopped, and while the troop of attendants were passing by, he considered with himself what was most proper to be done. He feared that if Beautè should get safe to Dunbar, whence he might easily draw together the whole strength of the kingdom, and return to crush him, being enraged that a foreigner, I know not from whence or of what extraction, should so insult over him, and treat him as if he were his servant. The murder of his kinsman Alexander, his estate (O unjust fortune!) in this man's possession, occurred to his remembrance, the great disgrace of his country, his name and himself, in so tamely submitting to such a yoke. I say all these things crowding upon his memory, inflaming with former grief and recent anger, made him resolve upon a revenge, and try the fortune of the present opportunity." \* \* \* "They had already come to \* \* \* \* \* which lyes to the north of the village of Fogo, over a water of the same name, and whence it takes its appellation, and is not distant from Langton tower above half a mile, which William Cockburn and David's brother did at that time furiously besiege. Wherefore having sent a messenger before, who should acquaint them with the whole affair, and order their men to be up in time, and for that purpose to mount their choicest horses, and with as great noise and tumult as possible they should make a feint as if they were going to attack Beautè,

with drawn swords," \* \* \* \* "They leap from their little horses, and mounting their choicest ones, and grasping their swords, ride up to those next them with as great a noise as possible, roaring out the name of Wedderburn, endeavouring thereby to strike terror into the enemy. There were not at the most above eighteen horsemen, being all servants and ordinary attendants, the vassals being as yet ignorant of the affair. There were with Beauté five hundred horsemen, French as well as Scots." \* \* \* \* "When Beauté saw these things, he fawningly calls to David, and excuses himself for having spoke so roughly, blamed his passion, &c. and begged that he would remit his wrath, and make up all by a mutual hearty agreement. David, thinking he had gone too far to be safe on any agreement, upbraids him as being accessory to the slaughter of his chief. The Frenchman, when he saw that all the Scots had slipped off, and that he remained with his few countrymen, and that no other hope remained, takes to flight. He rode on an extraordinary fine horse, which had been formerly the property of Alexander of Home, and it is generally believed that if he had been saddled in the Scots fashion, he would have carried him off; but being weighed down with his trappings, which were extremely weighty, and unaccustomed to French furniture, his running was thereby obstructed. Yet he springs away, and passed the Corniforde, which is just half way between Dunse and Langton, before those who came from Langton could come up. Then he continues his course through the middle of Dunse. While the rest of the pursuers were at a considerable distance, one Dickson, or, as some say, Trotter, who was very young, and one of David's pages, was not far from him. This boy had been left at home, but

hearing the tumult, he flew to it on one of his master's horses, and with his sword drawn; he kept pace with Beauté step for step, every now and then making a push at him. Beauté threatening, ordered the boy to keep back, and bravely defended himself by flying, till he came to the Stoney-land between Danse and Preston, when he being more intent on his pursuer than the road, his horse stumbled and threw him. Starting to his feet, he was very roughly handled by the young man, till John and Patrick Home, Wedderburn's brothers, coming up, slew him, and cutting off his head, it was brought to Danse, there exposed to publick view, and afterwards carried to the castle of Home. His body was buried in the place where he fell, and la Beauté's grave is at this day shewn by the country people in the neighbourhood \*."

## CHAPTER VII.

*The Earl of Arran enters the Merse to punish the Assassins of De la Beaute and the Prior.—Sir David Home of Wedderburn retires to Edrington Castle.—Slays Robert Blackadder, who had succeeded his kinsman in the Priorate.*

THE knight of Wedderburn, his two brothers, John and Patrick, Cockburn of Langton, and other borderers, who had been accessory to the assassination of the unfortunate warden, were cited to appear before the Lord Chief Justice at Edinburgh on the nineteenth day of February following. Neither of them felt disposed to obey a summons which they considered to be little else than a warrant for their execution. They

\* Manuscript History of the Homes. Appendix, No. IV.

accordingly disregarded it, and were declared by the Parliament to be traitors and rebels, and their estates ordered to be confiscated. The Earl of Arran, at the head of a powerful army, furnished with all sorts of engines for demolishing their strongholds, during the same month (1518) entered Berwickshire, to put into execution the decrees of the Parliament. Hearing of the approach of the Regent, Wedderburn shut himself up in the Castle of Edrington, a place of considerable strength, on the banks of the Whitadder, distant about three miles from Berwick. In this place of security he defied all the attempts of Arran to gain possession of his person. Arran at length returned homeward, having placed garrisons in the castles of Home, Langton, and Wedderburn, the keys of the latter having been delivered up to him while at Lauder by an unknown hand. He had been equally unsuccessful in his attempts at apprehending the person of James Hepburn, the murderer of Prior David Home, though he is said to have caused a very diligent search to be made for him. Notwithstanding that his castle and estate were now in the custody of his enemies, Wedderburn, while in his retreat at Edrington, still possessed great power over the inhabitants of the Merse. So great was still his authority, that, according to his biographer, "none almost pretended to go to Edinburgh, or any where else out of the country, without first both asking and obtaining his liberty." Blackadder, the new Prior of Coldingham, alone refused to succumb to the authority of this imperious chieftain of the Borders, who had rendered himself peculiarly odious to him from his having violently possessed himself of the estate of his family. Having accidentally met one day while following the sports of the chase, they fought with such obstinacy and enmity, that the

fray terminated in the slaughter of the Prior and his six attendants \*.

Nor was he long in recovering the castles, which were now garrisoned by the Regent's forces. He first took his own fortress of Wedderburn, having assailed and taken prisoners a part of the garrison who had gone to Dunse for provisions. He then led them before the towers of the castle, and threatened to put them and the whole garrison to death, unless it was instantly surrendered. On their refusing, he ordered several sets of gallows to be erected, and was proceeding to the execution of his threat, when one of the French soldiers agreed to procure a surrender, providing he would allow the garrison to march forth unhurt. This was readily agreed to, and Wedderburn once more found himself master in the halls of his fathers. By the remonstrances of this Frenchman, the castles of Langton, Home and others were also surrendered to him by their respective garrisons.

This singular man next applied himself to restore to his estates George, the eldest surviving son of his late chieftain, Lord Home. This young man had, a few years before, retired to England, where he had escaped the fate in which so many members of his family had been involved. The latter had not yet recovered from the shock which these disastrous events had occasioned him. When Wedderburn arrived at the house of one Dacral, with whom he resided, and wished him to prepare for accompanying him back to his native country, he positively refused. One day, however, when he had gone out into the fields to converse with Wedderburn, the latter mounted him upon his horse, and seizing the bridle, brought

\* Leslie's Hist. of Scot. p. 389. Hist. of the Homes.



him back by force into Scotland, and placed him safely in his own castle of Home. He soon invested him in the whole estates which had been the ancient inheritance of the Lords of Home, though this was not effected without considerable difficulty. A young lady survived, daughter of the late Lord, who was heiress of all those lands which were not assigned to heirs-male. To get rid of this incumbrance, he secretly sent her away into England, and entrusted her to the care of Dacral. He then caused a report to be spread abroad, that she had died of some distemper; and that this might receive the better credit, caused a coffin, filled with sand, to be interred with great pomp and funeral honours.

A dispute was now hotly carried on between Patrick Blackadder, cousin of the late Prior, who had fallen under the sword of Wedderburn, and William Douglas, about the Priory of Coldingham. In this contest Home considered it necessary to take an active part. He espoused the cause of the brother of his old ally, the Earl of Angus, and rendered him such effectual assistance, that Blackadder was soon compelled to abandon the office which he had usurped.

In 1520 a convention of the Estates was summoned to assemble at Edinburgh to adjust all differences which had broken out in the kingdom, and to provide for the administration of the government, till the King should be of sufficient age to take the reins into his own hand, or till Albany, who was then in France, should return. Equally jealous of each other, the Douglasses and Hamiltons deemed it expedient to bring with them as great a number of their partizans and vassals as could possibly be assembled. On the part of Angus, his brother William, the Prior, the knight of Wedderburn, with his kinsmen of Ayton, Fast

Castle, and Manderston. George Ramsay of Foulden, prepared to attend with a body of from eight hundred to a thousand horse. The Hamiltons were equally alert in assembling their followers and adherents, and procured for their party the favour and counsel of Chancellor Beaton, by whom they were persuaded to embrace the earliest opportunity which presented, of attacking Angus in the town of Edinburgh, before the greater part of his allies should have arrived. Gavin Douglas, the amiable and learned Bishop of Dunkeld, suspicious of their intentions, hastened to his brother ecclesiastic Beaton, and sharply and earnestly expostulated with him on the impropriety of such a proceeding, *By my conscience*—said Beaton, endeavouring to exculpate himself from any suspicion which Douglas justly entertained of his being accessory to the plot of the Hamiltons—*by my conscience, I know not the matter*, at the same time applying his hand so forcibly to his breast as to cause a coat of mail, which he wore underneath his ecclesiastic robe, to rattle. *Your conscience is not good; I hear it clatter*, replied Douglas, turning away from him with indignation, and rejoining Angus, whom he found at the head of a small body of his followers, drawn up in the High-street, busily employed in barricading the numerous thoroughfares by which the Hamiltons could sally out upon them. The latter were not long in attempting by one of these passages—the Blackfriars Wynd—to wreak their vengeance upon the Douglasses; but no sooner had they appeared, than, one by one, they were cut down, till sixty of their number was slain, among whom was Sir Patrick Hamilton, the brother of their chieftain. The troops from Coldingham and the Merse now arrived at the gates of the town, which they burst open, and rendered efficient assist-

ance to their friends in avenging the assault of the Hamiltons \*.

From this period till the return of Albany in the following year, Angus and his partizans, the Homes, held the supreme sway in the government. The heads of the late Lord Home and his brother William, which, for five years preceding, had frowned in grim solemnity from one of the most prominent places in the city, had been meanwhile taken down by Wedderburn and his associates, and with funeral honours were deposited in the cemetery of the Grey-friars. Angus, with Wedderburn, Cockburn of Langton, and others who were concerned in the assassination of the Regent, fled once more to the Borders, where they prepared to put their respective fortresses of Fast Castle, Wedderburn, Buncle, and Billie, into such condition as might enable them to hold out against the assault of the Regent's artillery. Sentence was forthwith passed against them as traitors, which was prevented from being put into execution by a compromise entered into between Home and Albany, by which George, the late Lord's son, was restored (August 1522) to his father's titles and estates of Dunglass and Home. Conciliated by the clemency manifested to their chief, the Homes deserted the side of their old ally Angus, and took part with Albany. To evince their zeal in the cause of the Regent, and their hostility to the Douglasses, they were not long in exerting their influence towards ejecting Prior Douglas from the monastery of Coldingham, in which, however, they were never successful.

On Albany's finally leaving Scotland in 1524, Angus usurped the governorship of the kingdom, retaining in his custody the person of the young King James, who

\* Godscroft's MS. History, and History of the House of Douglass, p. 255—6.

as yet had not attained the years of majority. To punish the Homes for the hostile part they had acted towards himself and his kinsman the Prior, Angus summoned Lord Home to appear before the Parliament, by whom he was acquitted,—only to renew his opposition by a bold but unsuccessful attempt, in 1526, at rescuing the young King from his hands.

What Home had endeavoured to effect by force, James, in 1528, accomplished by stratagem. Having escaped from his confinement in Stirling Castle, he immediately assembled the Lords and Barons of the realm, to whom he complained bitterly of the restraint in which he had been kept by Angus, and of the insolence with which the regal authority had been usurped by the Earl and his kindred, and concluded his address by vowing—*Scotland shall not long hold us both, till I be revenged on him and his!* To enable him to put his portentous threat into execution, James assembled a very large army, and with it marched southwards towards Tantallon Castle, whether the Douglasses had fled for protection. Hearing of James' approach, Angus hastened to Coldingham, leaving the stronghold of his fathers in the care of his uncle, Archibald Douglas. After an ineffectual blockade of twenty days, James found it expedient to raise the siege, and burning for revenge upon his old tutor Angus, marched with a considerable force to Coldingham, and thence toward Billy, where the latter resided during the siege of Tantallon \*. Well aware that

\* "The Earle himselfe remained (during the siege of Tantallon) at Billie in the Merse, within his baronie of Bonkle, not willing to shut himself up within the wals of any strength, having ever in his mouth this maxime (which he had received from his Predecessours) that *it was better to hear the lark sing than the mouse cheep.*" Hume of Godscroft's History of the Douglasses, p. 259.

the few retainers which he kept around him were by no means adequate to oppose the royal army with the Homes in its ranks, Angus now thought it most prudent to retire, and collect his followers. James returned to Coldingham, and placing the custody of the town and abbey in the hands of Lord Home and his brother, the Abbot of Jedburgh, had continued there for some days, when, being suddenly assailed in the night-time by Angus and his followers, to whom many of the people within the town were favourably disposed, he was obliged to make a precipitate flight to Dunbar Castle, to avoid once more falling into his hands.

Having expelled James and his army from Coldingham, Angus once more took up his residence at Billy, during which time he seems to have employed himself in making predatory excursions upon the property of such individuals in the neighbourhood as were hostile to his interests, and of these the Homes were doubtless the principal sufferers. To protect the husbandmen from his spoliations, James despatched a company of soldiers to Coldingham, under the command of an officer called Colin Campbell, who seems to have executed his commission so adroitly, that Angus and his partizans were obliged to flee into England. Previously to this, however, Angus had attacked some advanced parties of Argyle's troops at the Path of Pease, and slain three or four of his men \*.

\* Holinshead tells us, that the command of the troops sent to Coldingham was assigned first of all to "Bothwell, chief of Lothian, who refused to go as leader in the expedition." Godscroft relates, that the old men alive in his time, who had been witnesses to these transactions, and actors in them, affirmed, that Angus was *not obliged to flee* into England, but left Scotland at the King of England's desire, who wished them to shew this obedience to his own King; and also caused Angus to deliver up the Castle of Tantallon.—Holinshead's Chronicle, vol. 2d. 181. Hume's Hist. of Doug. 260.

While Angus and the rest of the Douglasses were exiled in England, his resentment against the Scottish King and the Homes was by no means subdued, and the influence of the English monarch alone was sufficient to prevent him renewing his turbulent career in Scotland. Four years after his leaving the kingdom, with the connivance of Henry, Sir George Douglas his brother, with an English army, proceeded from Berwick to Coldingham, when he burnt the town. The Abbey he fortunately spared. Thence marching westward, he devastated the neighbouring country, and burnt the villages of Lumsdean, Auldcambus, and Dunglass\*.

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## CHAPTER VIII.

*The Priory seized by the English, and besieged by the Regent Arran.—Garrisons placed by Somerset in the Castles of Coldbrandspath and Fast Castle.—Fort erected at Eyemouth.—Slaughter of Spanish mercenaries in Coldingham.—Eyemouth Fort demolished, but soon afterwards rebuilt.*

IN the year 1542, when James V. sent an army of ten thousand men, under the command of his favourite, Oliver Sinclair, to chastise the English for the ravages which they had previously been perpetrating upon the Scottish frontiers, Lord Home, with his kinsmen of

\* "Same time," says the author of An Catalogue of Strengths, Houses, and Places on the Marches, casten down, destroyed, and burnit by the Englishmen, "one George Douglas, a rebel Scot, did set fire to the toune of Cowdingham, and divers places nigh unto the same. He strove to take the tower of the Fast Castell, but could not by reason of its strength, and the hardieness of the holders. He burnt in one day the townes of Lomisden, Aldcambus, and Dunglass, also six mills, maist part belonging to the Homes of that part," p. 181.

Wedderburn, Ayton, Renton, and Fast Castle, Ramsay of Foulden, and several other individuals connected with our district, were among the number of those who were taken prisoners at the disastrous rout of Solway Moss. The King is said to have been so seriously disheartened by the tidings of this defeat, as to have fallen into a melancholy state, which terminated in his death soon afterwards.

On this, Henry VIII. of England having formed the design of permanently uniting the two kingdoms by a marriage between his own infant son and heir apparent, and the young Princess Mary of Scotland, in order to conciliate the Scots, now liberated the prisoners taken at Solway, and at the same time sent into Scotland the Earl of Angus, and his brother George, who had lived in exile for the last fifteen years. The Queen Dowager, Cardinal Beaton, and finally Arran the Regent, who at first seemed inclined to be favourable to Henry's views, stood now boldly opposed to this alliance, and to the reform principles which then began to be strenuously promulgated. Incensed at the opposition which he experienced, the English King resolved on employing military force to procure a compliance with his wishes ; and accordingly in 1544, he despatched into Scotland about fourteen thousand land forces under the Earl of Hertford, with a fleet of two hundred vessels, which effected a landing a little above Leith, before the Scots could assemble any adequate force to oppose them. The object of this formidable armament was to seize and carry off into England the young Queen, or to harass the Scots with fire and sword, till she should be delivered up into their hands. Failing in the attempt at securing her person, having ravaged the Lothians, and set fire to the town of Edinburgh, Hertford, with part of his troops, retired to his ships,

leaving the remainder to return through our district into England, spreading bloodshed and desolation in their course. The village of Lamberton, with its peel, and most of the mills and granges throughout Coldinghamshire, were spoiled and reduced to ashes \*. The Priory of Coldingham they had previously seized, and converted into a castle, fortifying the church and steeple, and planting in it a strong garrison of their countrymen †. Hither they were pursued by the Regent Arran, on the second or third of December 1544, at the head of an army eight thousand strong, with the Earls of Angus, Bothwell, Glencairn, and Crawford, in its ranks. For three days were the walls of the sacred edifice in vain exposed to a brisk cannonade of the Regent's artillery, when it was thought adviseable to abandon the siege, either under pretence of having discovered a mutinous disposition among the troops, or on an alarm being given that a formidable English force was approaching from Berwick. The Regent and the principal men fled to Dunbar, leaving behind their artillery, which would undoubtedly have fallen

\* In the Catalogue just quoted, the following places are enumerated, as "castin down or burnit," viz. Aldcampus-mill and grange, Press-grange, Renton-grange and barns, with divers houses, Swinud (Swine-wood) grange and village spoiled, Manderston's grange at Whitfeld, Aiton mills and grange, Lambertoun toune and castle, Mordingtoun-grange and the Cawmills.—The author of the "Expedicion into Scotlande, under the conduit of the Earl of Hertforde," tells us, that "the army encamped after the night at a Pyle named Ranton (Renton) seven miles (he should have said fourteen) from our border, which Pyle was a very ill neighbour to the garrisons of Berwick; the same we razed, and threw down to the ground."

† The garrison who held out the Abbey against Arran, consisted of a hundred men with gunners from Berwick, and ten Irishmen with *half-haques* or short hand-guns of a peculiar construction, under the command of Sir George Bowes.—Lodge's Illustrations of British History, vol. 1st. p. 67.



into the hands of the enemy, had not the Earl of Angus and his followers, possessed of more fortitude, returned and averted the disgrace which impended, by carrying it off to Dunbar in spite of the opposition of the English. In September of the following year, the Priory was set fire to and partly consumed by the English soldiery\*.

\* It appears from the correspondence in the Talbot papers, that the people of Coldingham were favourably disposed to the English, to whom they made offers of assistance against their countrymen, as the following extract from a letter of date 6th October, 1544, from the Lords of the Council to the Earl of Shrewsbury, shews:—"And touching the offers of the men of Coldingham; yf you shall perceyv that thies thair offers be unfayned; and that ther be any meete place ther, wherein a garrison may safely lye and be victualled, and they shall also be contented to lay in sufficient hostages to serve truly against all men at his Mates. commaundment; his Highness in theis cases is pleased to accept thair offers; and requireth you to consider in the meantyme who may be in that case a meete capitayne to lye there, and what nombre may suffice for the same." On the 22d Nov. of the same year the Lords again wrote to Shrewsbury as follows:—"The King's Majestie hath seen your lettres of the xxxth of this instant, and touching the keping of Coldingham, his Highnes thinketh it a very meete place to be kept, yf it were possible to have the same fortified, and thairfore being desirous to have as much doon that waye as maye be devised, hath presently sent downe in post his Maiesties servaunt Archan, an Italyon, to considre and view the place, with whom his Highnes requireth you t'appointe the Mr Carpenter and Mr Mason of Barwik to join for that purpose; And yf it be thought uppon the view and consideracion therof, that it maye be kepte, or in shorte time made tenable; his Maiestie wold have a garryson lefte ther, and as much done for the fortifieing and keping therof as shall or may possibly be done; and if uppon a good consideracioun it shall be thought unmeete to be kepte or fortifieid, then his Maiestie wold have the sayd hold holly raized and utterly destroyed, and so left without any garryson to keepe the same." From another letter from Sir William Evres to Shrewsbury, dated Berwick, 1st Dec. 1544, it appears that a body of troops under Sir Bryan Layton had been sent to the Pass of Dunglass to reconnoitre the Scottish army as it approached from Dunbar.—Lodge's Illustrations, vol. 1st. pp. 60, 65, 68.

After the death of King Henry, Hertford now Duke of Somerset, following up the view of his late sovereign toward promoting an alliance between young Edward and the Queen of Scots, levied an army of eighteen thousand men, and fitted out a fleet of fifty sail. With this formidable armament he proceeded to invade Scotland. The land forces, with the Protector, as Somerset was generally called, at their head, entered our district without opposition, placed garrisons in the fortresses of Fast Castle and Coldbrandspath, which greatly annoyed the neighbourhood by the frequency and extent of their spoliations. At the same time he gave instructions for the erection of a fort upon a bold promontory which commanded the harbour of Eyemouth. The fatal battle of Pinkie, fought 10th September 1547, was the result, in which the Scots sustained a total overthrow, without the English being able to profit by their defeat.

During the summer of 1549, a band of Spanish mercenaries under the command of one Julian Romero, in the service of the English, having quartered themselves in the town of Coldingham, were, for the most part, either slain or made prisoners by a detachment of the Scottish army, principally composed of German and Spanish adventurers, who attacked them during the night when in their lodgings, before they were aware of their approach. About the same time also the Scots succeeded in surprising the English garrisons in Fast Castle and Coldbrandspath, which they wrested out of their hands. In 1550, in accordance with the treaty of peace then concluded, the newly erected fortlets of Eyemouth and Dunglass were ordered to be demolished.

In 1557, the Queen Dowager resolved to re-edify the fort at Eyemouth, which had been destroyed seven

years previously in terms of the treaty. D'Oysel, the French ambassador, was despatched into Berwickshire with a considerable body of troops, to protect the engineers employed in the work. During its progress the English made frequent excursions from Berwick, with a view of interrupting their operations \*. After its completion, he implanted in it a garrison of one hundred and twelve men, principally composed of foreign mercenary troops, plentifully furnished with all the necessary arms, artillery and ammunition. Here D'Oysel remained for some months, endeavouring by all possible means to stir up a war between the Scots and English, in which the former, recollecting the disastrous results of the battles of Flodden, and the still more recent overthrow at Pinkie, felt but little disposed to engage.

A few more years elapsed, and Mary Stuart, one of the most beautiful, unfortunate, and imprudent of her sex, on recovering from the dangerous illness with which she had been seized at Jedburgh, after visiting the castles of Home, Wedderburn and Langton, arrived on the confines of our district in November 1666, with a splendid cavalcade of upwards of a thousand horse. By Sir John Forrester, the

\* These excursions of the English were so frequent, that three skirmishes, attended with considerable effusion of blood, are recorded to have been fought between them and D'Oysel's troops in the course of one week. Several human skulls and bones were lately taken up on the adjacent farm of Lint-hill, which, from the way in which they were lying, and from their state of preservation, were probably the remains of some of the soldiers who fell in these conflicts, whose bodies had been hurriedly collected together, and consigned to one common sepulchre. A field, a little northward from the fort, goes by the name of the *Bare-foots*; and there is a tradition that it got its name from a battle being there fought between the Scots and English, in which the former were called out to engage, without having had time to put on their shoes!

deputy-governor of Berwick, she was met at the bound-road with a body of sixty horsemen, consisting of the principal inhabitants of the town. By them she was conducted to Halidon-hill, to gratify the wish she had expressed of enjoying from its heights a view of Berwick. Arrived upon its summit, the ancient walls sent forth, perhaps for the last time, in thundering peals a *feu de joie* worthy of the exalted rank of her who surveyed them. From Halidon she proceeded with this princely train through Eyemouth toward the Priory, in which she remained all night. On the following morning she pursued her rout westward toward Edinburgh, to act a prominent part in scenes which were at once to deprive her of her kingdom and her life \*.

During the remainder of Mary's eventful reign, the people of Coldinghamshire, and indeed of the Merse generally, seem to have been very unfavourably disposed to her interests. They were probably influenced by Lord Home, who, notwithstanding that he had signed the bond by which that unhappy Princess was encouraged to marry the infamous Bothwell, now acted a conspicuous part with the rebellious nobles, by whom

\* If tradition "may be in aught believed," Queen Mary did not, as most of the chroniclers record, take up her abode at Coldingham for the night, but resided at the castle of Houndwood, the residence of the Lord Prior, where a small apartment is pointed out as "Queen Mary's room." Were it not that all the authorities by whom her journey is described, concur in making the Priory the place of her lodging, we should have considered it not improbable that the Queen might have left her numerous escort to enjoy themselves at Coldingham, and have retired to Houndwood, which is only about four miles distant. It may also be noticed, that the supposed circumstance of the Queen having mounted her white palfrey on the spot where the present farmstead of Mount-Album, which is close to Houndwood, stands, is traditionally reported to have given rise to its name.

she was dethroned. With the Homes of Ayton, Wedderburn, and Manderston, the latter of whom fell in the conflict, he led six hundred of the border spearmen against her at Langside, where he is said to have decided the fortune of the field.

Mary now became a captive in England, whither she had fled for protection against the turbulent nobility of her own realm. One little party, notwithstanding the overpowering faction which opposed them, continued steadfast to the cause of their captive Queen, and gallantly held out for her the Castle of Edinburgh.

To wrest from them this important fortress, the rebellious faction found it necessary to solicit aid from the English. Accordingly in April 1573, Lord Ruthven, the individual who had assisted in the assassination of Mary's Italian secretary Rizzio, was deputed by the Regent Morton to meet Sir William Drury, the English general, in Lamberton Church, when it was agreed that an English army should be sent to Edinburgh to assist the Scots in their attempt to recover the Castle\*.

\* According to the treaty of Lamberton it was agreed, that the Regent should provide the English auxiliaries with all necessities, and back them up with a sufficiently strong body of horse and foot; that the wives and nearest relative of such English soldiers as might perish during the siege, should receive a reasonable gratuity at the discretion of the English general; that any of the great guns damaged in the service should be replaced by pieces out of the Castle, of the same size and metal. It was further stipulated, that the English general should erect no fortification on Scottish ground without special permission from the Regent; that immediately on the Castle being taken or surrendered, he should retire with his forces and artillery into England; and lastly, the following sons of noblemen, the masters of Ruthven and Semple, John Cunningham, son of the Earl of Glencairn, and Douglas of Kilspindie, were to be detained as hostages in Berwick, or in other places adjacent to Scotland, till the conclusion of the expedition.—*Ridpath's Border History.*

For this purpose Drury, at the head of an army of two thousand men, well supplied with ammunition and artillery, among which were nine great culverins, which had been taken from the Scots at Flodden, marched from Berwick to Coldingham, where, according to Holinshead, he quartered his troops for the night. On the following morning he appeared before the walls of Fast Castle, whose small garrison of ten men found it expedient to surrender to so formidable an armament, and were allowed to depart with their lives.

The individuals who held out so resolutely the Castle of Edinburgh were Kirkaldy of Grange, and Maitland of Lethington,—the former accounted the bravest soldier, the latter the ablest statesman of the age. They had also been joined by Lord Home, who, either repenting of his former disloyalty, or influenced by the representations of Maitland, now wished, too late, to lend a helping hand to a mistress who had shewn him many marks of kindness. After sustaining a long and vigorous siege, the brave defenders were at length compelled to surrender the shattered fortalice into the hands of the revengeful Morton. The generous Kirkaldy perished on the scaffold by the hand of the executioner, while Maitland is supposed to have anticipated his fate by swallowing poison. Lord Home was tried and convicted in Parliament, but was pardoned and restored to his estates.

In 1587, when Mary had met at Fotheringay the same bloody fate which had befallen her trusty soldier Kirkaldy, Sir Robert Carey was despatched into Scotland, to communicate to King James' commissioners the melancholy tidings. In Foulden church, on the twenty-fourth March, they were announced to Sir James Home of Coldingknows and Sir Robert Mel-

ville, and a letter was at the same time delivered to them from the hypocrite Elizabeth, expressive at once of her sorrow for the death of Mary, and her friendship for the king of Scots!

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## CHAPTER IX.

*Robert Logan of Fast Castle leagues with the Earl of Gowrie in a plot for the Assassination or the Imprisonment of the King.—George Sprott, a Notary at Eyemouth, tried and hanged for Concealment of Letters connected with that Conspiracy.—James VI. passes through Coldinghamshire when on his way to the English Throne.*

IN the month of July 1600, a correspondence commenced between the Earl of Gowrie and Robert Logan of Restalrig, proprietor of the lands of Fast Castle and Gunsgreen, who, by one of his contemporaries, is described as “ane godles drunkin and deboshit man.” The former of these, a young nobleman in the prime of life, who by all parties is admitted to have been possessed of first-rate talents, was son of William Earl of Gowrie, whom James had caused to be beheaded in 1584, for a treasonable attempt at securing his person, usually called the Raid of Ruthven. But a short time previous to the commencement of his correspondence with Logan, he and his brother Alexander, the Master of Ruthven, had returned from Italy, where he had been for some years assiduously engaged in the prosecution of literary and scientific studies. To revenge the death of his father appears, from the tenour of the letters which passed between them, to have been the purpose of the unfortunate Gowrie on returning to Scotland, and in the profligate Logan he seems to have speedily found a ready

and a resolute coadjutor—one in short who not only declared himself, but actually proved himself to have been ready to risk life, lands and goods in the cause. As the reward of his infamous services Logan was promised the Earl's lands of Dirlton in East Lothian, which he accounted to be the pleasantest dwelling in all Scotland, as he states in one of his letters to Laird Bour—the individual through whose medium the correspondence was carried on. The mode in which this revenge was intended to have been gratified, is the point upon which the mystery of this singular plot depends, and regarding which such a discrepancy of sentiment has prevailed. While the royalist party entertained not a shadow of doubt, that either the destruction of the king, or the imprisonment of his person was meditated, the friends of the Earl were equally convinced, that the whole affair was a device fabricated by James, to rid himself of one whom he had reason to fear might attempt a retaliation of the wrongs which he supposed the king to have inflicted upon his parent. If, however, the letters which the industry of an eminent antiquarian has recently brought forth from their hiding-places, be allowed to be authentic, the latter supposition must necessarily fall to the ground\*.

The fifth day of August 1600, was appointed for the consummation of the plot. On the morning of that day, while James and his courtiers were engaged in the sport of buck-hunting in the neighbourhood of Falkland, he was invited aside by Alexander Ruthven, and persuaded to abandon the chase, and retire with him to Perth for the alleged purpose of examining a man whom he had discovered with an immense

\* Logan's Letters are printed in the Appendix, No. 5.



treasure in his possession, "a great wide pot all full of coyned gold in great pieces." His Majesty, after some hesitation, accompanied him to his brother's palace, when, after having partaken of some refreshment, he was escorted by him from the hall in which the courtiers had sat down to dine, through various apartments, the doors of which Ruthven locked carefully behind him, to a small room in one of the turrets, where, instead of finding a treasure as he had been led to expect, he was confronted with a man in armour, holding in his hand a dagger. Ruthven immediately snatched this weapon from Henderson (for such was the man's name), and covering his head, presented it to his Majesty's breast, at the same time saying, "Remember ye of my father's murder? Ye shall now die for it." Henderson hereupon wrested the dagger out of the hand of Ruthven, who now, upon receiving a mild answer from the king, declared that, providing his Majesty should make certain promises to his brother, and keep silence, "Nothing should aile him." The king then enquired "what promise they would crave?" when after being required to swear that during his absence he should not cry out or open the window, Ruthven re-entered, and addressing his Majesty, said, "Sir, there is no remedy; by God you must die!" He then prepared to bind the King's hands with a garter, which, however, Henderson snatched from him. He then put one of his hands on the king's mouth, and encircled his neck with his other arm. Henderson had by this time succeeded in opening the window, out of which the King, in spite of Ruthven's grappling, thrust his head, crying out lustily, "Treason! Fy! Help! Yearle of Marr! I am murderit!"

Meanwhile the nobles below, surprised at the King

being so long absent, on being informed that he had set out on his return to Falkland, had gone out into the court-yard, eagerly enquiring for their horses, when they were saluted by the cries of the terrified Monarch from the window of the turret above their heads. They immediately hastened back into the palace, and endeavoured to gain access to the apartment where James was struggling with Ruthven, Sir John Ramsay having entered by a private door, and perceiving the perilous situation in which his Sovereign was placed, immediately stabbed Ruthven with his rapier. The Earl then came up, and finding his brother lying dead on the floor, prepared to revenge his death; but after a desperate struggle he was also overpowered, and slain by Sir John Ramsay\*.

The fatal termination of this rash and ill-concerted conspiracy, seems to have been in a great measure occasioned by the Ruthvens having employed in it an individual so little qualified to be accessory to it as was Andrew Henderson. Perhaps its miscarriage might have arisen from an excess of caution, as they do not appear to have communicated to him the object they contemplated, previous to introducing his Sovereign into his presence under such suspicious circumstances. It can hardly be imagined that Ruthven could have been so fool-hardy as to have intended to assassinate James within the walls of his brother's mansion, occupied as it then was by many of his nobles and other attendants. His threats were only employed as the means of inducing the King to surrender himself, without resistance or outcry, into his power, and the misinterpretation of their meaning by Henderson, probably led to

\* See deposition of Andrew Henderson at Falkland, 20th August 1600, given at length in Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, Part iv.

the discomfiture and assassination of his masters. Had that individual been informed, previous to his being shut up in the closet, that the King was shortly to be brought before him, and that it might be necessary to threaten him with death, in order to procure from him silence and submission, it is probable, from the attachment which Henderson is known to have borne to the Earl, that he would have cordially assisted him in the plot. Had Ruthven designed to murder James, it can hardly be supposed that he would have deemed it necessary to have bound together his hands before striking the fatal blow. Their probable intention was to have bound and muffled up the King; after the departure of the nobles to have conveyed him to a boat, which was ready waiting for him in the Tay, and in it to have carried him to Fast Castle, where their arrival would be anxiously expected by Logan and Laird Bour.

Besides the individuals last mentioned, there was another person who resided within our district, privy to the conspiracy. This was one George Sprot, a notary-public in the town of Eyemouth, an intimate acquaintance of both, and their frequent boon-companion in the hall of Fast Castle. During the month of July preceding the explosion of the plot, it appears from Sprot's confessions, that one day while in Fast Castle, he heard Logan read a letter to Bour, which the latter had brought from the Earl of Gowrie, when the following conversation took place between them: "Sir," said Bour, "if ye thinke to make any commo-ditie by this dealing, lay your hand to your heart." Restalrig answered, that he would do as he thought best, and added, "howbeit he should sell all his owne land that he had in the world, he would passe thorow with the Earle of Gowrie; for that matter would give him greater contentment, nor if he had the whole

kingdome; and rather or hee should falsifie his promise, and recall his vow that he had vowed to the Earl of Gowrie, he should spend all that he had in the world, and hazard his life with his lordship!" Bour then said, "you may doe as you please, Sir, but it is not my counsell, that you should be so sudden in that other matter. But for the condition of Dirleton, I would like very well of it." "Contente yourselfe," interrupted Logan, "I am at my witts end."

Interested by this conversation, and anxious to ascertain the nature of the intrigue carried on between Logan and Gowrie, Sprot soon afterwards tried to sift Bour upon the subject. The latter informed him, that he believed that his master should get Dirleton "without either golde or silver, but that he feared it should be as deare unto him;" and on Sprot enquiring how that could be, he added, "they had another pie in hand, nor the selling of any land;" but begged him, that "for God's sake he would let bee, and not trouble himselfe with the laird's business; for he feared, within a few days, the laird would either be landlesse or lifelesse." Sprot, however, ultimately succeeded in gratifying his fatal curiosity in getting a sight of Gowrie's letters, which, with several others bearing on the subject of the conspiracy, were afterwards consigned to his keeping by Bour. On the latter informing Logan, about Christmas 1602, two years after the fatal catastrophe, that he had been so rash as to shew Sprot the Earl's letters, he was so much alarmed as to offer Sprot a bribe of twelve pounds to remain silent on the subject, which was accepted.

Both Logan and Bour died in 1606. In the spring of 1608, Sprot, having imprudently uttered some statements, which shewed him to have been privy to the Gowrie conspiracy, was apprehended and taken to

Edinburgh, where he underwent an examination before the Lords of the Privy Council, several letters of Logan's, which had been found in his house; being produced in evidence against him. He at once made a full and open avowal of his guilt, in having secreted these treasonable documents; but on being subjected "to sum chappis in the buittis,"—an instrument of torture now happily unknown, he retracted the confession which he had just voluntarily made. On the Earl of Dunbar's arrival in Edinburgh, he gave directions for the curing of the poor notary's legs, "quhilkis wer very ewill woundit with the buittis;" and on his being again brought before the Council, he ratified his original confession, and was sentenced to die the death of a traitor. He was accordingly executed on the twelfth day of August 1608; and while suspended by his neck from the gibbet, he "three severall times gave a loud clap with his hands," which signal he had agreed to make in testimony of the truth of his confessions\*.

When James VI. was on his way to seat himself upon the English throne, vacant by the death of Queen Elisabeth, in 1603, attended by a splendid retinue, he proceeded through our district from Lord Home's castle of Dunglass, in which he had staid during the

\* See an Account of his Examinations in the Criminal Trials, and of his Trial and Execution, extracted from that Work in Appendix, No. 6. The following individuals testified to the letters found in Sprat's possession, being in the hand-writing of Logan, viz. Mr. Alexander Watson, minister of Coldingham, Mr. Alexander Smythe, minister of Chirnside, "who was weill aquentit with the umquhile laird of Restalrig, be ressoun he was petagog to his barnis," Alexander Cuik, sheriff-clerk of Berwickshire (who was condemned to die for false writing, 20th December 1616), William Home in Ayton-mill, John Horne, notary in Eyemouth, and Mr. William Hog, minister of Ayton.

preceding night. On reaching Lamberton, he was met by the Governor and Mayor of Berwick, invested with their robes and other *insignia* of office, and by them escorted into the town, where he was welcomed with the most enthusiastic demonstrations of joy.

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VILLAGES.—ANCIENT PROPRIETORS.—CASTLES,  
CHURCHES, &c.

COLDINGHAM.

THE village of this name has been already briefly noticed. From the rental of the Priory made up in the year 1561, it appears that it consisted of forty-two husband-lands, from each of which the Monks exacted yearly, under the name of *penny-mail*, the sum of thirteen shillings and four-pence, with three capons and one head of poultry\*. An additional payment of ten-pence in silver was also levied at Whitsunday, for a service denominated *Castle-works*. These lands were held by the following proprietors, and contributed as follows :—

	£	s.	d.	Capons.	Poultry.
1. William Home of Linthill, -	4	5	0	18	6
2. David Home of Coldingham					
Law, - - - - -	15	4	5	63	21
3. James Lumsdean, brother to					
Laird of Blannerne, - -	2	16	8	12	4
4. Alexander Home, - - -	2	8	9	3	3
Carry forward,	24	14	10	96	34

\* The extent of a husband-land seems to have been 8 acres.

	£	s.	d.	Capons.	Poultry.
Brought forward,	24	14	10	96	34
5. Henry Renton of Billie, -	1	7	8	6	2
6. Gavin Home, - - - -	1	7	8	6	2
7. John Mailling, - - - -	0	7	6	3	3
8. Matthew Steven, - - - -	0	14	2	3	2
9. John Home in Rykylside -	1	1	3	3	1
<hr/>					
TOTAL,	29	13	1	117	44

From the same source we learn, that the village was at that period composed of thirty-two houses, many of which appear from their names to have belonged to the neighbouring gentry. For each house a sum of money and cain fowls was annually paid, and the feu holder bound to supply to the Monks a certain number of days' labour or *dargs*. In this manner £10 2s. 4d. with fifty-nine heads of poultry, and fifty-two days' servitude, or an equivalent in cash, during the time of harvest, turf-casting, and hay-making, were produced.

The parish church stands at the south-eastern extremity of the village. Its northern wall and eastern gable, hereafter particularly described, formed originally a part of the choir of the Priory Church, and exhibit a fine specimen of the style of architecture which obtained during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. The stipend, as augmented in 1833, is eighteen chalders, with £10 for communion elements. The first of its clergymen after the Revolution was the Rev. John Dysart,—a man of bold and determined character, and a steady advocate of the rites of the Reformed Religion. He was translated from the parish of Langton to that of Coldingham, in March 1694, by advice of the Privy Council. The greater portion of the inhabitants were then staunch Episcopalians, and

were consequently strongly opposed to his induction, so much so indeed, that it was deemed necessary to employ the aid of a body of military to prevent a riot \*. Dysart refusing to resign his charge, an Episcopalian clergyman was procured, who for several years continued to officiate in a barn, which stood at a short distance from the church, and was supported by the voluntary contributions of the parishioners. At the present day there is scarcely an Episcopalian to be found in the parish. The present incumbent, the Rev. James Home Robertson, is the fifth clergyman who has officiated here since the death of Mr. Dysart †.

\* The mode in which Mr. Dysart was inducted was somewhat similar to that employed at the institution of some of the later Priors, as appears from the following minutes in the books of the Chirnside Presbytery:—

*“Coldingham, 24th March, 1694.*

“Mr. John Lauder preached the admission sermon, from 1st Corinthians iii. and 21st verse. After prayer, he and some others were appointed by the Presbytery, with some heritors and elders of the parish of Coldingham, to go along to the manse and glebe, when the said Mr. Lauder, by the Presbytery’s appointment, gave him earth and stone, thereby collating the benefice of said Kirk to him, before being put into the pulpit, having received the Holy Bible and Keys of the Church.”

† It may here be noticed, that Patrick Brydone, Esq. of Lennal, author of a *Tour through Sicily and Malta*, was son of the Rev. Robert Brydone, minister of Coldingham, and a native of the parish. Though neither a surgeon nor physician, while a young man he applied himself to the study of Medicine and Natural Philosophy. In November 1757, he communicated to Dr. Whyte of Edinburgh an account of a cure of palsy which he had effected by means of electricity. This case Dr. W. laid before the Philosophical Society, and it was published in the 50th volume, part 1st, of their Transactions in that year; and in the 2d part of the same volume, in 1758, appeared “A further account of the effects of electricity in the cure of some diseases, in another letter from Mr. Brydone to Dr. Whyte,” dated Coldingham, Jan. 9th, 1758. The manse was the scene of his humane and successful exertions.



The parish of Coldingham, with the exception of that of Lauder, is the largest in the county of Berwick, containing within its area about 57,600 imperial acres, upwards of 5000 of which form the extensive waste called Coldingham Moor. In a hollow, at a short distance from the lofty sea-cliffs, and two miles north-west of the village, lies Coldingham Loch, a fine expanse of water, covering about thirty acres, on the banks of which is the seat of the late Robert Blair, Esq. Professor of Astronomy in the University of Edinburgh, and author of an erudite work, entitled *Scientific Aphorisms*.

The number of heritors in the parish is fifty-nine, eleven of whom, according to the County Cess Roll, hold property to the amount of £400 Scots valuation. The entire population in 1831 was 2668, that of the village being 850.

The Parish Register was commenced by Mr. Dysart, and has since continued to be carefully kept. All cases of defaulture which had occurred during the past week, are accurately recorded, with the proceedings of the session against the individuals accused, and the degree of penitence evinced by them when subjected to the salutary discipline of the *catty-stool*, &c. One or two instances of concealed birth which came before the ancient members of Coldingham session would, at the present day, have been sufficient to subject the parties implicated to the highest pains of the law. Many of the minutes are extremely ludicrous, and exhibit forcibly to our minds the great revolution which, in the lapse of little more than a century, has been effected in the manners and customs of the country\*.

\* See Appendix, No. 7.

## LUMSDEN.

There were anciently two places of this name within our district, one of which was designated East, or Great Lumsden, the other West Lumsden, or Dulaw. They were originally granted to the Priory by King Edgar, under the general name of Lumsden; but the above distinction became necessary soon afterwards, when the lands came into the possession of two distinct families, who held them of the Monks as manorial tenants. They are separated from each other by a deep and romantic glen, which is one of the most interesting resorts of the Berwickshire naturalist.

*East Lumsden.*—So early as the reign of David I., the ancestor of the ancient family of Lumsden had settled here with his followers. Gillem' (William) and Cren de Lumsden attested a charter granted to the neighbouring Priory by Waldeve, Earl of Dunbar, between the years 1166 and 1182. Radulf (Ralph) de Lumsden, *archidiaconus*, (archdeacon probably of Lothian,) with William, John, Adam, and Gilbert, all members of the same family, witnessed grants made by David de Quixwood, Ranulph de Bonkyl, and Nicholas de Aldcambus, during the long reign of William the Lion. Adam de Lumsden took the oath of fealty to Edward I. at Berwick, on three successive occasions, viz. A. D. 1292, 1296, and 1297.

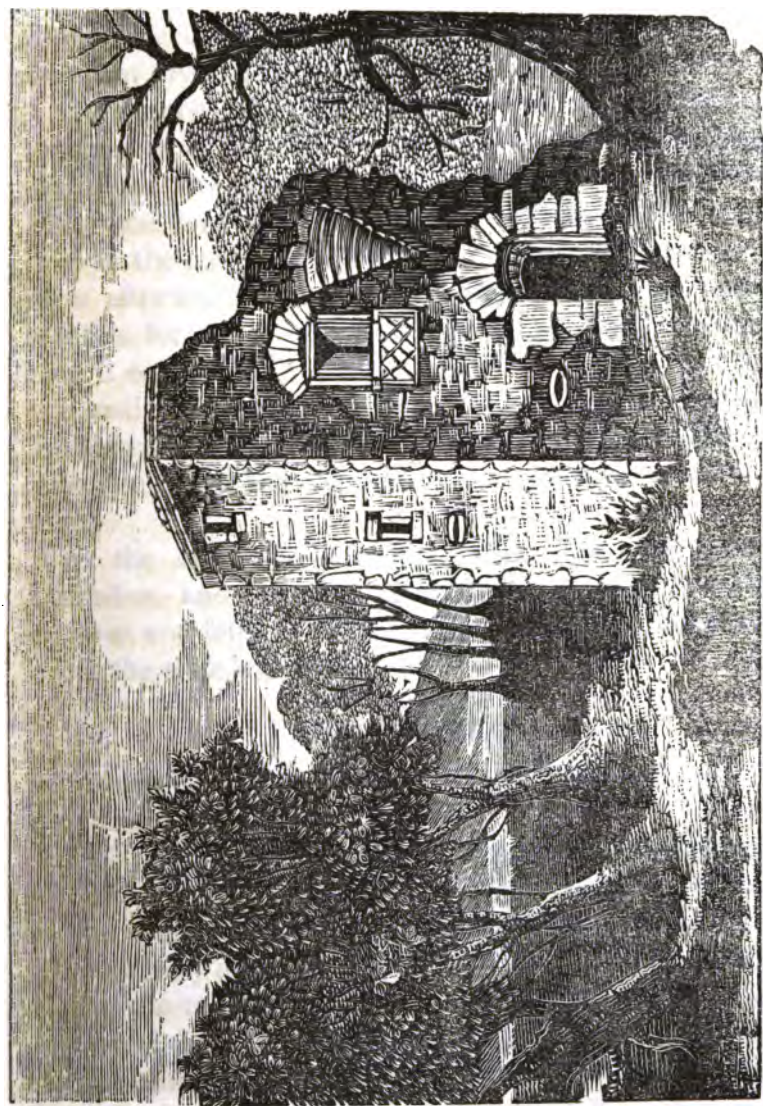
Gulielmus de L. attested a charter of the lands of Billie by Patrick, Earl of Dunbar, who died in 1332. About 1335, David de L. made a donation to the Monks of Coldingham for the redemption of his grandfather, who had been condemned to die for a crime which is not recorded. Gilbert de L. flourished in 1320, and on the 15th June of that year, received from John Stuart, Earl of Angus, a charter, investing him in the

lands of Blanerne, within the parish and barony of Bonkle. Thomas de L. had a precept of seisine *super inquisitionem* of the lands of Lumsden, issued by John Olle, Prior of Coldingham, 12th Jan. 1444; and in February following another was served upon himself and his wife Elizabeth. From that period down to the present day, the estates of Lumsden and Blanerne have been possessed by descendants of this old family, which is now represented by Mary Lilius Lumsdene, spouse of the Rev. Edwyn Sandys, Rector of Hardres in Kent\*.

At the Reformation eleven shillings was the sum exacted for the lands of East Lumsden by the Priory. There are no remains visible of the peel or fortress which this border family would find it necessary here to erect as a means of protection, and a place of residence. It probably occupied the site of the present farm-house, and around it stood the rude village occasionally noticed in the chartularies, and burnt by Sir George Douglas in 1532. On acquiring the estate of Blanerne during an early part of the fourteenth century, the Lumsdens abandoned their ancient domain, and reared upon the banks of the Whitadder the picturesque tower represented on the following page.

*West Lumsden.*—These lands seem to have been originally held by the Durham Monks *in capite*, by tenants whose names have not come down to us. In the year 1364, David II. issued a brief to Walter Hali-burton, sheriff of Berwick, commanding him to sum-

\* Chartulary of Coldingham, Chalmers' Caledonia, and a Genealogical Tree of the family of Lumsden, in possession of Mr. Blackadder, Blanerne.





mon the tenant of both lands and village, for the purpose of enquiring of whom, and by what services, whether by ward, relief, or marriage, they were held. The result of this investigation is unknown.

During the reign of William the Lion, the village appears to have been the property of one William de Golin, as we then find him exchanging it with the Prior and convent of Coldingham, for a ploughgate of land in the territory of Swinton. Its new proprietors soon afterwards exchanged it with Edward de Aldcambus for the village and mill of that name. How long it continued in the possession of this family cannot easily be ascertained, though the names of several individuals of that name occur in the Scottish chartularies, till near the conclusion of the fourteenth century.

At the northern extremity of the lands of West Lumsden, and perched upon the summit of a precipitous and lofty cliff, which protrudes into the sea, stand the time-worn walls of

### FAST CASTLE,

In a situation of deep gloom and solitude, corresponding well with its early history, over which a dark veil of mystery is hung, it being impossible to ascertain whether the rock was fortified by the original Saxon colony who invaded these shores, or by the Norman or Saxon family upon whom the adjoining lands devolved during the twelfth or thirteenth century. That it was employed as a government fortress during the fourteenth century, is proved by its having been taken from the Scots in the end of July 1333, by a party of Englishmen under the command of Sir Robert Benhale, the same brave Norfolk knight who gave such proofs of bravery but a few days previous at Halidon

Hill \*. In 1402, its garrison surrendered to the English under George, Earl of March, who had sided with Henry IV. in annoying his countrymen. An English garrison was put into it, and one William Clifford appointed governor. In 1404, by an order of the King given at Litchfield, Clifford was commanded to resign his charge into the hands of his son John, Duke of Bedford, warden of the east marches, on the feast of St. Mary's nativity†. Fast Castle was next in the possession of a free-booting Englishman, called Thomas Holden, who, for some time, annoyed the neighbourhood by the extent of his depredations. In 1410, however, he was surprised one morning before day-break by Patrick Dunbar of Beil, second son of the Earl of March, accompanied, according to Holinshed, by "an hundred hardie persons," when the castle was taken, and himself made prisoner. In 1419, the castle was in the hands of one William Haliburton, who, while the king was in France, succeeded in taking the castle of Wark from the English, and cruelly put the whole garrison to the sword. It was soon, however, recovered by the English, who, being well acquainted with the place, got access to the castle by a sewer which led from the kitchen into the Tweed,

\* Benhale was the individual who slew the Scottish champion Turnbull, in presence of the hostile armies at Halidon Hill. Before the dreadful conflict had commenced, Turnbull, a gigantic Scotchman, accompanied by a furious mastiff, strode forth from the ranks, and challenged any person in the English army to engage with him in single combat. After a short pause, Sir Robert Benhale stepped forward and accepted the challenge. He was a man of great strength, and expert at the use of his weapon, but greatly inferior to Turnbull in height. The mastiff first darted forward furiously, but was instantly cut down by a skilfully directed blow from the knight. The Scotchman then followed, and first lost his arm, and then his head.

† See Appendix, No. 8.

and, surprising the Scots, put them all to death, in revenge for their cruelty to their countrymen.

Fast Castle now became the property of the Homes. Patrick Home, son of Sir Alexander Home of Dun-glass, the first Lord High Chamberlain of Scotland, held it in 1467, and was ancestor of the Homes of Fast Castle. He acted a prominent part in the rebellion which led to the death of king James III. in June 1488. His son and successor, Sir Patrick Home, took an active part in the politics of the day, and was only twice absent from his place among the barons in Parliament during the reign of James IV. He was appointed negociator of the five-year truce concluded at Coldstream in 1491 \*. In 1503, as has already been shown, he and his lady, sister of the celebrated Abbot Forman, had the honour of lodging in their castle for the night the Princess Margaret, when on her way to be married to the gallant James of Scotland. Margaret seems to have been well entertained, if we may credit the Somerset herald, and at her departure was saluted by a volley from the guns of the castle.

\* The following extract from the letter of safe conduct granted in 1490-1, by Henry VIII. to Sir Patrick before going into England, is somewhat singular. His Majesty states, that he had taken under his special protection "*spectabilem virum Patricium Hume de Fast Castell in Scotiæ, cum duodecim personis in comitiva sua, vel infra ac totidem equis, necnon bonis, jocalibus, auro, et argento, monetato et non monetato, bogeis, manticis, fardellis, litteris, papiris ac aliis rebus et harnesiis suis licitis quibuscunque & tam per terram quam per mare et aquas dulces aut equestre vel pedestre, seu aliis equitaturis veniendo, ibidem nocte dieque morando,prehendinando, sojornando, conversando, stando, &c. &c.*" If the King's safeguard had any weight, there was little chance of the knight being robbed of a single article which an honest gentleman might consider proper to carry with him on a journey.—*Rotul. Scotiæ*, vol. ii. 495.



Cuthbert Home, a distant kinsman, succeeded to the estate at the death of Sir Patrick, and Holinshead gives the following account of his early life, and of the way in which he succeeded to it. "The Lord of Fast Castle," says he, "came over with him (i. e. the Arch-bishop of St. Andrews and Prior of Coldingham), who had travelled through a great part of Christendome, and moreover passing into Turkie, came to the emperor of Turkie at the city of Cairo, who retained him in his service, and gave him good entertainment, so that he remained with him till he heard that the living of Fast Castle was fallen to him by lawful succession; notwithstanding that when he departed out of Scotland, there were eight several persons before him to succeed one after another, which in the meantime were all deceased." He did not survive long to enjoy the estate which he had thus unexpectedly acquired, being slain at the battle of Flodden, in September 1513. Meanwhile Lilburn, one of the murderers of Sir Robert Kerr of Littledean, the king's chief cupbearer, and warden of the middle marches, had been imprisoned in a dungeon in Fast Castle, where he about this time died.

In 1515, when the Regent Albany entered the Merse, to punish Lord Home for contempt of his authority, he succeeded in taking Fast Castle, and placed in it a garrison of 16 of his men. It was soon, however, recovered by the borderers, and demolished. It continued in a dilapidated state till the year 1521, when part of it was rebuilt and strongly fortified by the Homes, who expected another hostile visit from the Regent, in consequence of their having co-operated with the Earl of Angus, who had usurped the government during his absence in France.

In 1542, Home of Fast Castle was taken prisoner

at the rout of Solway Moss, but afterwards released; and in 1548, the Castle itself was taken and garrisoned by the English during Hertford's memorable inroad. The manner in which it was regained by the Scots is thus minutely described by Holinshead in his *Scottish Chronicle*: "When the captaine of Falk Castle had commanded the husbandmen adjoining to bring hither, at a certain day, great store of vittels, the young thereabouts having that occasion, assembled thither, and laicing them on their shoulders, were received after they passed the bridge, which was made over two high rocks into the Castle, where, laying down what they brought, they suddenly, by a sign given, set upon the keepers of the gates, slue them, and before the other Englishmen could be assembled, possessed the other places, weapons and artillery of the Castle, and then receiving the rest of their companie through the great and open gate, they wholly kept and enjoied the Castel for their countrymen \*."

Sir Patrick Home of Fast Castle fell at the battle of Langside 18th May 1568, fighting against the unfortunate Queen Mary. He left two infant daughters, to whom Lord Home was appointed tutor. As has been elsewhere stated, the latter leagued himself with Kirkaldy and Maitland, with whom he shut himself up in the Castle of Edinburgh, on his way to besiege which, Sir William Drury, in 1578, took the castle of his protegees, leaving in it a garrison of ten, or according to some, fourteen men—a force which was considered adequate for holding it out against all Scotland. This seems to have been the

\* The traditionary account of this transaction corresponds admirably with that of Holinshead, except as to the date of its occurrence, which, as might be expected, is referred to the time of the Pechs! The provisions wanted are said to have been peats for fuel.

last time that a hostile force appeared before its walls\*.

By his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Neil Montgomery of Lainshaw, Sir Patrick Home of Fast Castle left two daughters as above stated, one of whom, about the year 1580, married Robert Logan, the wily and profligate Laird of Restalrig, who thus became proprietor of Fast Castle and the adjoining land. Here he commenced his turbulent career, by harbouring Bothwell when proscribed by the general voice of the nation. As he himself informs us in one of the letters published in the Appendix, he appears to have found sufficient security within the walls of his gloomy fastness in June 1596, when outlawed for having refused to stand trial on a charge of highway robbery. In July following, a very singular contract was entered into between this worthless character and Napier of Merchiston, the celebrated inventor of the Logarithms. By this Napier bound himself to come to Berwickshire, and use "all craft and ingyne to discover a treasure alleged to have been

\* In August 1567, Sir Nicholas Throgmorton, Queen Elizabeth's Scottish ambassador, wrote from Fast Castle to Cecil her prime minister, as follows:—"Sir, as you might perceive by my letter of the 11th July, I lodged at Fast Castle that night, accompanied with the Lord Hume, the Lord of Ledington (Richard Maitland), and James Melvin, where I was entreated very well, according to *the nature of the place, which is fitter to lodge prisoners in; than folks at liberty; as it is very little, so is it very strong.*"

"By my next I hope to send you the bond concluded by Hamilton, Argyle, Huntly, and that faction, not so much to the prejudice of the Lords of Edinburgh, as that which they sent into France. Thus having no more leisure, but compelled to leap on horseback with the Lords, to go to Edinburgh, I humbly take my leave of you from Fast Castle, the 12th of August 1567." From another letter it appears, that he was escorted to Edinburgh by the celebrated individuals above mentioned, with 400 horse of their appointment.—*Robertson's History.*

hidden within Logan's dwelling of Fast Castle. The contract is interesting as an evidence of the influence which superstition exerted over the mind of one of the greatest of European philosophers, so recently as the conclusion of the sixteenth century. It has been suspected by Napier's talented biographer, that Logan had another object in view than that expressed in the contract. He supposes that he sought an opportunity of securing the person of the sage for the purpose of forcing him to exert his art in furthering the plot which the Popish Lords had commenced with the secret aid and connivance of Bothwell and Logan: for it appears that Napier had announced himself to be possessed of some extraordinary means of bringing to a speedy termination any campaign in which he might be induced to take part. It is not certain whether Napier ever proceeded to fulfil the agreement contained in the contract. He seems, however, to have sustained some serious injury from the unprincipled knave with whom he had leagued himself, as appears from the terms of a lease granted in 1596, by which his tenant is prohibited from sub-letting his land to any one who should bear the surname of Logan\*.

In another place Logan's connection with the Gowrie conspiracy, and the probable purpose to which he intended to have applied this ancient stronghold, have been sufficiently detailed. In accordance with an ancient usage of the criminal law of Scotland, in 1609 his bones were exhumed after having lain in the

\* See "Memoirs of John Napier of Merchiston,—his lineage, life, and times, by Mark Napier, Esq." a descendant of the philosopher. To this excellent volume we are indebted for a copy of the contract between Napier and Logan, which is much more minutely and accurately given than in Sir Walter Scott's *Provincial Antiquities*. It is printed in the Appendix, No. 9.

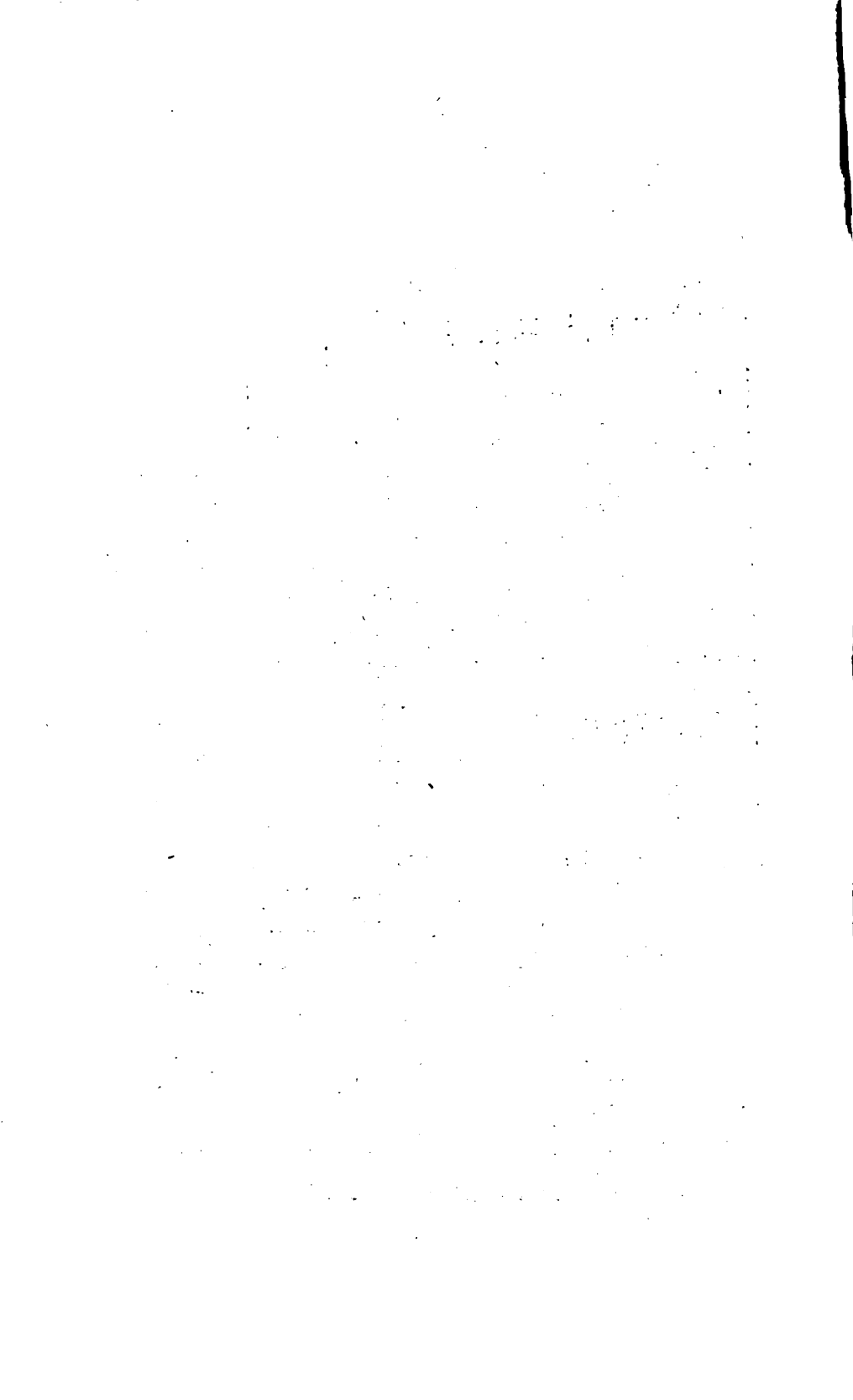
grave for three years, and exhibited in Court, when sentence of forfeiture was pronounced upon his own memory, and that of his heirs for ever. Logan left several children, the eldest of whom was Robert, who lost Fast Castle, Gunsgreen, and other estates, in consequence of his father's villany.

Fast Castle, and the adjacent lands of Wester Lumdean, after remaining for a few years vested in the crown, became the property of James Arnot, merchant in Edinburgh, who resigned them to the Homes, 24th May 1617. In 1642, they were *made over* to Sir Patrick Hepburn of Waughton, who was violently dispossessed in 1644, by Alexander, Earl of Home, for which the Earl was fined in the sum of £20,000 Scots. They then passed by marriage to the Ramsays, by whom they were sold to the first Sir John Hall, Bart. of Dunglass, in 1682\*.

The majestic cliff upon which the ruins of the Castle are situated, is elevated to the height of about sixty or seventy feet above the level of the sea, by which it is nearly surrounded. It was in former days detached superiorly from the mainland by an interstice about twenty-four feet wide, the communication between the land and castle being then kept up by means of a draw-bridge, secured at both extremities by an arched gateway. In more recent years, however, this space has been filled up by large blocks of stone from the neighbouring cliffs, so as to form a dangerous causeway, about three feet wide. The summit of the rock presents a somewhat triangular surface sloping towards the sea, flanked by a rude and massive rampart wall, a detached portion of which still stands about fourteen feet high, with the remains of an exploratory stair upon

\* Papers in possession of the present Sir John Hall, Bart.





its inner side. Upon the highest part of the crag, and close upon its eastern margin, stand the ruins of a small quadrangular tower, built of red sand stone, the roof and south wall of which have fallen in within these fifty years. The length of the tower is twenty-eight, and its greatest breadth eighteen feet; the thickness of its walls rather exceeds six. The surface of the cliff measures in length a hundred and twenty, and its greatest width is sixty feet. According to tradition, there was a communication between the castle and a large cavern at its base, by means of a stair constructed through its heart, which, if it existed, must have contributed greatly to the security of the castle during a siege. The remains of the offices and other buildings, are traceable over the other parts of the rock.

It need scarcely be added, that Fast Castle is the Wolf's Crag in the beautiful tragic tale of the Bride of Lammermoor.

Between the lands of Wester Lumsdean and the romantic rivulet of Pease, which bounds Coldinghamshire upon the west, are situated the lands of

### AULDCAMBUS,

Which now form a part of the parish of Coldbrandspath, to which they were annexed at the Reformation. They are supposed to have derived their name from the ancient British words, *alt*, signifying a streamlet, and *camus*, a creek or bay, at least such is the construction of the word given by Chalmers in his Caledonia\*.

The *mansio*, or manor of Auldcambus, was granted by king Edgar to the monks of Durham in A. D. 1098, and, exactly a century afterwards, as has been pre-

\* The name is occasionally spelt in the old records Aldecambus and Aldechambouse.



viously stated, Edward de Aldcambus, the manorial tenant, exchanged the village with the monks of Coldingham for that of Lamsdean. The latter at the same time released him from a debt of a hundred and seven merks which they had paid as his ransom to the King when he incurred sentence of forfeiture \*. During the reign of William the Lion, Nicholas, son of Thomas de Aldcambus, granted to God, the Virgin Mary, St. Ebb, the Prior, and monks of Coldingham, the whole of the land which he held either hereditarily or otherwise, in the village and barony of Aldcambus, with escheats, &c. A few years afterwards David, son of Arnald de Quixwood, renounced the village of Aldcambus, and many acres of land adjacent to it, in favour of the monks, as will be seen by turning to the Appendix to part second, where transcripts of his singular charters have been inserted †. At this early period there were very extensive flower-gardens on these lands. In testimony of this, we refer the reader to a charter of David de Quixwood, conferring no less than ten acres of land laid out in this manner.

The Priory of Coldingham retained possession of both village and lands till the year A. D. 1441, when the monks, by permission of their superior, John Walsingham, Prior of Durham, exchanged them with Sir Alexander Home of Dunglass and David Home of Wedderburn, for Houndwood, and certain husband-

\* Edward de Aldecambus also occurs as a witness to a charter granted to Holy Island Priory. Raines' North Durham, Appendix.

† During the early part of the fourteenth century, Patrick, Earl of Dunbar, was proprietor of certain lands at Auldcaumbus. By charter, dated at Coldingham on the Tuesday following the Feast of St. Lawrence the Martyr, A. D. 1327, he granted the monks the privilege of making a conduit of water near the rivulet of Elmedene, for the supply of their mill there.—*See Translation of Charter in Appendix to Part II.*

lands in Coldingham \*. In the hands of their successors they continued till the year 1682, when they were purchased by Sir John Hall, of Dunglass—ancestor to the present Baronet of that name.

An hospital, or lazaret for the reception of lepers stood at Auldcambus, but there are no records extant which can enable us to ascertain the precise period of its erection, or the name of the individual to whose liberality it owed its foundation. All that we know respecting it is, that during the reign of William the Lion, the benevolent baron of Quixwood above mentioned, with a pious concern *for the souls of his ancestors, parents, wife, and children*, granted half a ploughgate of land here, *formerly held by Ralph the tanner*, to the hospital of Auldcambus, and to the lepers abiding therein (*Ospitali de Aldcambus et leprosis ibi manentibus*), and that its guardian or keeper, as has been noticed in a former page, swore allegiance to Edward I. at Berwick, in A. D. 1296. On the disappearance of the loathsome disease of leprosy from the land, the hospital would probably be either demolished, or applied to some other purpose.

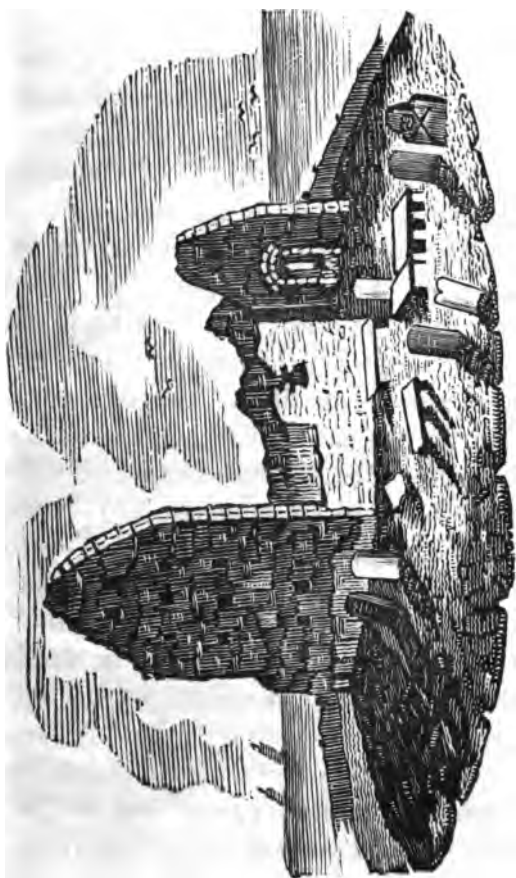
A church was erected here toward the latter part of the twelfth century, and was dedicated to St. Helen, mother of Constantine, the first of the Roman emperors who embraced Christianity. In 1295, William, Bishop of St. Andrew's, exempted the churches of

\* In 1441, Sir David Home and his nephew, Sir Alexander of Dunbar, had a dispute about the lands of Auldcambus, and the jurisdiction of Coldingham, called The Bailliery, which Sir David had purchased from Drax the Abbot. It was decided in favour of the latter by Adam Hepburn, chieftain of Hales, and his eldest son, Patrick Hepburn of Waughton, and others who were appointed arbiters, and their decision was ratified in the Court of Coldbrandspath, 2d October of the same year. Godscroft's MS.

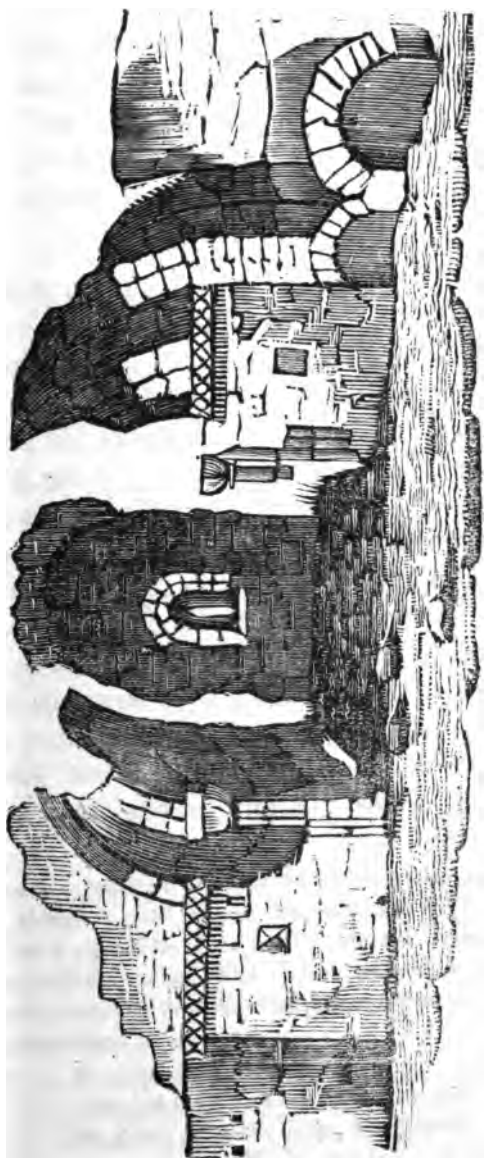
Auldcambus, Lamberton, and Fishwick, from the burden of being obliged to entertain his Official, when making his annual visitations to the religious houses situated within the bishopric; and from Patrick, Earl of Dunbar, who died in 1371, a donation of a stone of wax (*petra ceræ*) for lighting the church, was granted *to the religious men serving God* in the same. In 1194, Radulfus, parson of Auldcambus, attested a charter granted to the Abbey of Dunfermline, and he was probably the first of its superiors. In 1214, Gilbert de Lynton, also its parson, occurs as witness to a donation of Walter of Lyndsay to the monastery of Kelso. But the mere names of them and their successors can be of little interest to the general reader. In the ancient taxation of the deanery of the Merse, the church was rated at fifteen merks\*.

The ruins of St. Helen's chapel, of which an exterior and interior view are annexed, are situated close upon the sea-banks, and present to the visitor a scene of utter desolation, the roof and side-walls having fallen in, and the gable walls alone remaining so entire as to render it a prominent object in the landscape. A small Saxon arch at the entrance to the chancel, with a border of fine zig-zag moulding, remained quite entire about five or six years ago, when the author first visited the ruins, but it has since fallen. At that time a portion of the hallowed font was observed lying among the ruins. Its small cemetery contained many monuments of considerable antiquity, which are described by the old people in the neighbourhood, as being quite dissimilar in form to any that they have elsewhere seen. It is still occasionally

\* We must refer the curious reader to the Chartularies of Coldingham, Dunfermline, Kelso, and Arbroath, and to the Durham Charters in Appendix to part 2d of the present volume.









employed as a place of sepulture, though less frequently than in former days ; its sequestered situation having been discovered to afford too convenient a field for the midnight labours of the resurrectionist \*.

Auldcambus was a parish till the Reformation, when, as has been formerly observed, it was appended to that of Coldbrandspath, for the purpose of augmenting the stipend of the latter.

### PASS OF PEASE.

The deep and finely wooded ravine which formed the boundary between these parishes, bore the name of Auldcambus-Path, Coldbrands' Path, and latterly the Pass or Path of Pease, and was one of the strongest passes on the Borders. Cromwell is recorded to have said of it, that "it was easier for one man to defend it, than for twenty to make way."

It thus presented a formidable barrier to an invading army. Patten, describing the Duke of Somerset's expedition into Scotland in 1548, makes the following notices of this important pass : "We marched an viii. mile till we came to a place called the Peaths. It is a valley running from a vi. mile west ; straight eastward and toward the sea, a xx. skore broad from bank to bank above, and a v. skore in the bottom,

\* There is a tradition current in Berwickshire and East Lothian, that the churches of St. Helen, St. Abb, and St. Ann or St. Bey at Dunbar, were erected by three sisters, who are represented as having contended with each other, who should succeed in erecting a church closest to the sea, and the following rhyme seems to have been founded upon this absurd idea :—

St. Abb, St. Helen, and St. Bey,  
They all built kirks to be nearest the sea,  
St. Abb's upon the nabbs, St. Helen's on the lea,  
St. Ann's upon Dunbar sands,  
Stands nearest to the sea.



wherein runs a little river ; so steep be these banks on either side, and deep of the bottom, that who goeth straight down shall be in danger of tumbling : and the comer up so sure of puffing and pain ; for remedy wherof the travellers that way have used to pass it, not by going directly, but by paths and foot-ways leading slopewise, from the number of which paths, they call it (somewhat nicely indeed) the Peaths. A report a day or two before was spread among us, that hereat the Scots were very busy a working, and here now we should be stayed, and met withall by them ; whereunto I heard my lord's Grace vow that he would put it in proof, for he would not step one foot out of his course appointed. At our coming, we found all in good peace ; howbeit the side-ways on either side, most used for ease, were crossed and cut off in many places with the casting of trauers (transverse) trenches, not very deep indeed, and rather somewhat hindering, than utterly letting ; for which it were more for policy or diligence (as I am sure neither of both did want) the ways by the pioneers were soon so well planned, that our army, carriage, and ordnance, were quite set over soon after sunset, and there as then we pight our camp."

In 1173, it was seized by an army of banditti, who committed extensive depredations over the whole of the Merse and Lothians. Cospatrick, descendant of one of the Saxon kings of Northumbria, being sent with a force against them, "by commandment of the King fought with them, slewe their captaine with six hundred of his companie, and took eighty prisoners, the which he caused to be hanged. And thus having delivered the country of those peelers, with loss of forty of his own men, he returned to the King with the head of the captaine of that rout, so that for his

manhood herein shewed, he was made by the King Earl of March, and for the maintenance of his estate, had the lands of Cockburn Pethes given to him and his heirs for ever, upon this condition, that in times coming, the Earls of March should purge Mers and Louthen of all thieves and robbers. In memory whereof he was commanded to bear in his arms a felon's head, sprinkled with bloode \*." Here the Earl erected a strong fortress, the venerable ruins of which stand close by the great post road, and attract the attention of the tourist and traveller.

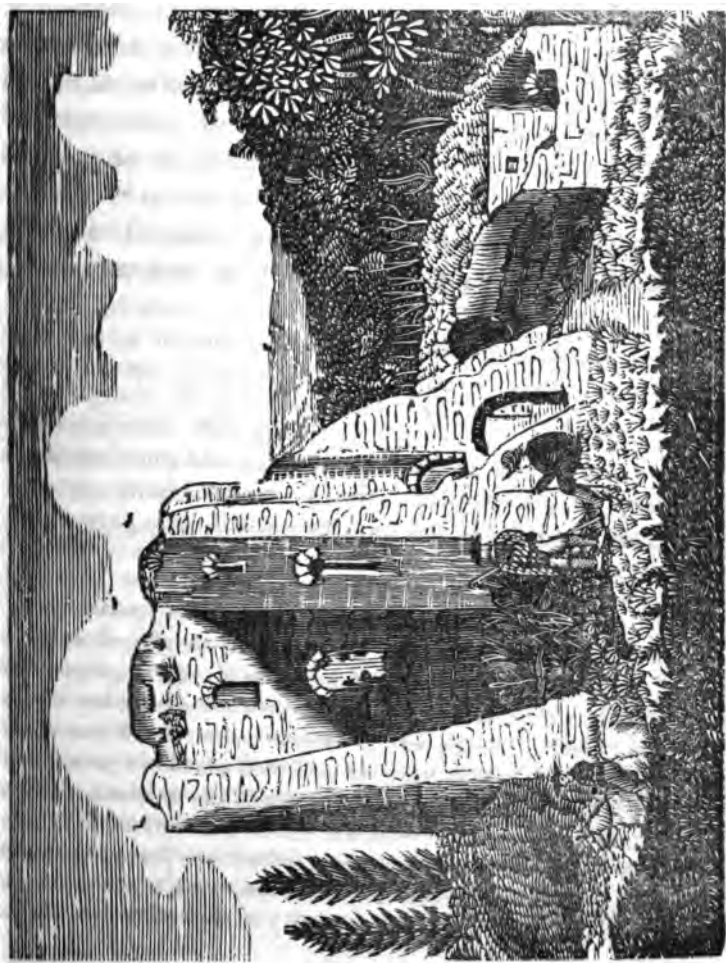
The Castle was of a quadrangular shape, constructed of rough stone, having a spiral stair at its south-west angle. The entrance was by an arched gate-way upon its southern side. Close to it are a number of vaulted apartments, which seem to have been employed as storehouses and stables. The tower overhangs a romantic and wooded glen, through which flows a rivu-

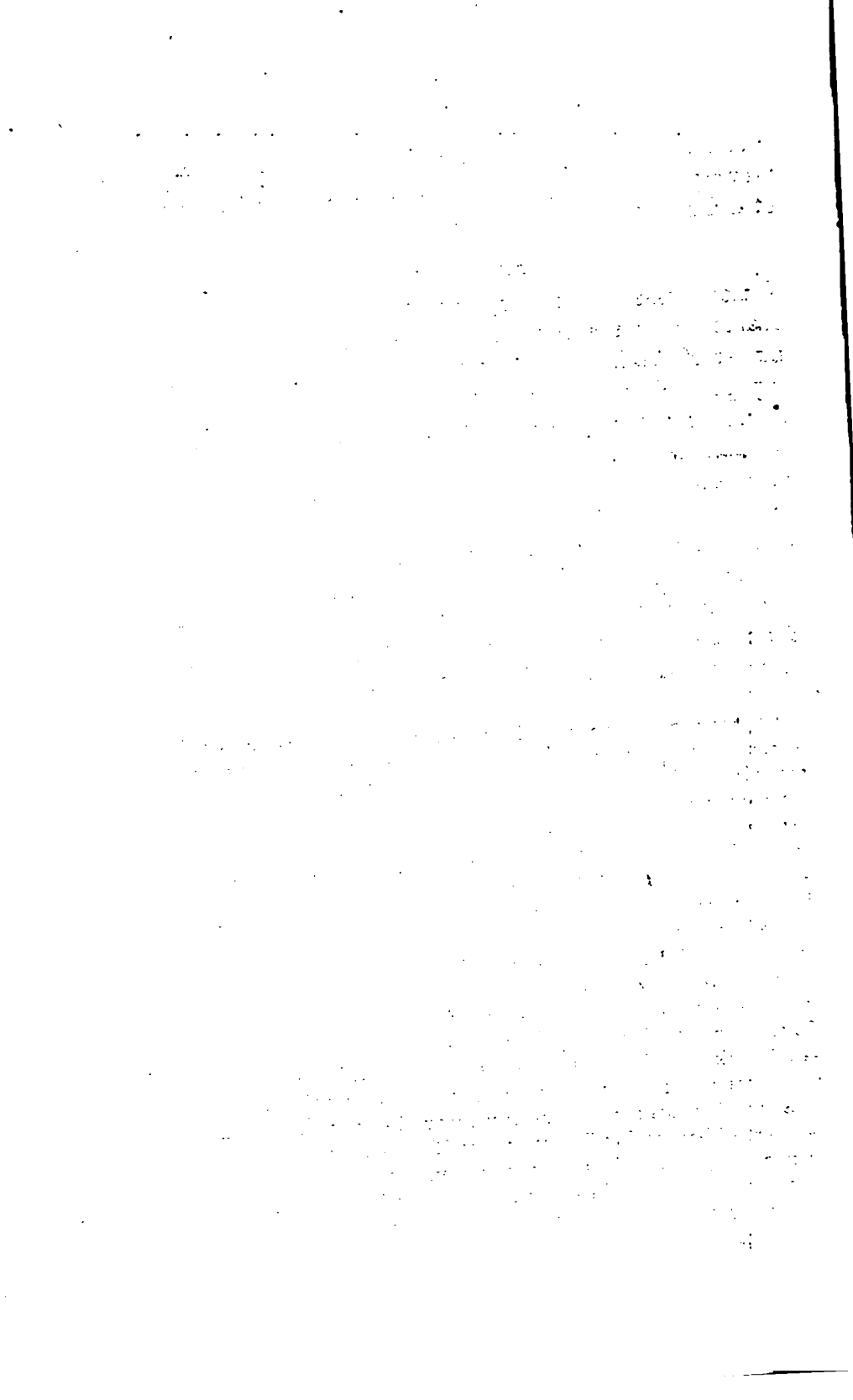
\* Holinshead's Scottish Chronicle. The ravine which the freebooters made their lurking-place, is one of the most beautiful and romantic that we have ever seen. Over its vast chasm a magnificent bridge of four arches was thrown in 1786. It is 300 feet long, and only 15 wide; and the top of the parapet wall is nearly 130 feet above the rivulet that flows below. One of the piers rises from the bottom of the glen 97 feet before the arch springs; and, though of perfectly secure dimensions, seems vastly too slender to support the superincumbent weight, having more of the light airy proportions of an ornamental column, than of the solidity of a pier for a bridge. In former days, before the construction of this bridge, the road of communication between Berwickshire and the Lothians passed this glen, about a quarter of a mile from the sea, by such intolerably steep banks as to be almost impracticable for loaded carriages, and often exceedingly dangerous. It is said, that the county owed the idea of this bridge to the talents of a lady, the late Miss Hall of Dunglass. It has latterly become comparatively useless since the opening of the new line of road through the valley of the Eye. It still, however, continues to be an interesting object to the traveller, from its picturesque situation.

let—a tributary of the Pease. The Earls of Dunbar and March continued to hold this strong fortress till the time of their forfeiture, in 1435. In 1404, when the Earl of Dunbar had revolted from the Scots and joined with Henry IV., his son George continued to hold out the tower against his countrymen \*. The castle and barony of Coldbrandspath, with the Earldom and estates of Dunbar, were, for some time afterwards, vested in the Crown. They were next bestowed by James II. upon his infant son Alexander, Duke of Albany. On the revolt of the Duke, an act of Parliament was passed, 1st October 1487, annexing the tower and barony of Coldbrandspath, and the other estates pertaining to the Earldom of Dunbar, unalienably to the Crown. On the marriage of James IV. in 1503, with the Princess Margaret of England, the Lordship of Coldbrandspath, with the Earldom of Dunbar, with their dependencies lying within the constabulary of Haddington, were assigned as the jointure of the young Queen; and Robert Sherbourne, dean of St. Paul's, obtained seisin for the same from the Sheriff of Edinburgh. On the 26th May 1503, "James Logan, the Sheriff of Edinburgh, went to the market-cross of Dunbar, and there personally gave seisin and corporal

\* In Rymer's *Fœdera* there is an order from King Henry to John Topcliff, his serjeant-at-arms, dated 22d August, 1405, from which it appears, that George held it as his father's lieutenant, by consent of the English King. The latter had allowed him to employ Scotchmen to provide other necessities for the garrison; but as a shipmaster called Christal, with seven other marines, were engaged in this work, Rowland Heron and Thomas Hilter, soldiers of the garrison of Berwick, seized them and two of their ships, which they carried off to Berwick with an armed force. The serjeant-at-arms is ordered to find out the offenders, and, if necessary, to compel them to make restitution and redress for the injury and violence which they had committed.—Rymer's *Fœdera*, iii.

possession of the Earldom of Dunbar and lordship of Cowburnspecht, to the queen's attorney, in presence of the bailies of Dunbar and other respectable witnesses." After the King's death, Archibald, Earl of Angus, having married the Queen Dowager, claimed in her right the barony of Coldbrandspath and its appurtenances, about which he had a long dispute with his brother-in-law, John Home of Blackadder. The Homes ultimately gained possession of it. In 1682 the estate was purchased by Sir John Hall, Bart.





About three miles south-east from the ruins of Coldbrandspath tower, here delineated, and in the parish of Coldingham, lie the lands of

### RENTON,

Which were granted by Edgar, and confirmed by charters of his successors, to the monks, under the names of Regnintun, Reignintun, Raynton, &c. forming part of the barony of Coldingham. They gave name to a family whose members occasionally occur as witnesses to the earlier charters, and whose descendants, in more recent times, became proprietors of lands in other parts of our district. The office of forester, over the woods of the Priory, devolved upon them so early as the reign of William the Lion, and this being hereditary, led them to relinquish the name of Renton, and assume, from their occupation, the surname of *Forester* \*. During the fifteenth

\* In the reign of William the Lion, we find *Ricardus Forestarius* and *Ricardus de Reningtona*,—no doubt the same individual, attesting charters of Edward de Auldembus and David de Quixwood.—*See Charters in Appendix, Part II.* The woods belonging to the Priory, over which this family were appointed foresters, were those of Greenwood, Reston, Brockholewood, Akeside, Kirchedeneswood, Harewood, Swinewood, and Houndwood, and the emoluments arising from the office were as follows:—"Meat and Drink to the Forester and his man, and Horse-meat when he shall come to the house of the Lord Prior, with a Robe fit for a Gentleman at Christmas, to wear when he attends the said Lord Prior at Christmas yearly, with the keeping of the Wrack and Waiff within the Lordship of Coldingham, and all the bounds of the same; and receiving from the said Wrack and Waiff twelve pennies of the pound, and for every ship or boat plying within the Lordship, carrying, or loaded with, Grass or Straw, Salt, Coals, or sicklike, if any from thence be sold, One Bolt before the Mast and One Bolt behind the Mast; and for the anchorage of every Ship or large Vessel twelve pennies, and every boat four pennies, with a Thrieve of Oats from every husband-land of the Farms of the said Lordship of Coldingham (Excepting the husband-lands of the

century this family terminated in a female, who married Ellem, baron of the lands in Lammernmoor now called Ellemford, who thus became proprietor of Renton, and forester to the Priory. The estate became the property of Patrick Home of Kill-know, Coldingham, second son of Sir Alexander Home of Manderston by his marriage, in 1558, with Janet, daughter and heiress of David Ellem of Renton. Their son, Sir Alexander Home of Renton, was appointed Sheriff-principal of Berwickshire in 1616, on the resignation of Alexander, Earl of Home, and continued in the rigorous discharge of his office till the year 1621 \*. His son, Sir John Home, Bart. of Renton, was clerk of the Court of Justiciary, General and Master of the Ceremonies, and was the last person who held the

village of Coldingham), for every Waggon of Wood four pennies, for every horse-draught one penny, for every Log of Oak drawn with Oxen four pennies, and Wood Hens due according to custom."—*Charter in possession of Sir Samuel Stirling, Bart.*

\* The following letter from his son to Sir Patrick Home of Polworth, Sheriff, affords at once an interesting evidence of the superstition of the age, and of the stern manner in which Sir Alexander had exercised the office of Sheriff. The original is preserved at Marchmont, and the author has to acknowledge himself indebted to James Watson, Esq. writer in Dunse, for the transcript which he here presents to his readers.

"Rentoun, May 15, 1624.

"My Lord,

"I am veri sorri it was not my fortune to know when your Lo.p. came to Coldingham that I might have waited upon you & acquainted you with the great increase of Witchcraft which is in that place, many persons there being *make fame* for that crime against whom several malifices can be proven. The slackness of judges for a long tyme has been the occasioun of it, for ther ware never any apprehended ther *since my father was Sheriffe at which tyme he caused burne seven or eight of them in that place.* I know your Lo.p. is inclined to *doe justice* & it is only proper for your Lo.p. to take notice of it. If

former office under that title \*. He married Margaret, eldest daughter of John Stuart, commendator of Coldingham, by whom he had, 1st, Sir Alexander Home of Coldingham, Bart. whose male line terminated at the death of his grandson, Sir John Home, Bart. in January 1783. 2d, Sir Patrick Home of Renton, Bart. whose male line expired at the death of Sir James Home, Bart. in the same year. 3d, Henry Home of Kames, whose grandson was the celebrated Henry Home of Kames, Lord of Session and Justiceary †.

The present proprietor of the estate of Renton is Sir Samuel Stirling of Glorat, Bart., whose father, Sir John Stirling, in 1783, succeeded Sir James Home, Bart.

The Tower of Renton, already noticed as having repeatedly suffered during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, stood upon the northern bank of the Eye, immediately behind the site of the present mansion-house, where its foundations are still visible. The village was situated a little to the north-west of the Tower, near the farm-house called Renton-barns; and if we may judge from the extent of the foundations of its houses, which till lately remained to impede the progress of the plough, it must at one period have

some were apprehended more would come to light. If your Lo'p. desire to have a list of the names let me know who is in all sinceritie

My Lord, your Lop's. mo. affection. cousin  
and obed. servant,

(Signed) A. HOME."

\* Hume's Commentaries on the Law of Scotland, vol. i. p. 13. His commission is dated 10th Dec. 1663.

† Wood's Edition of Douglas' Peerage, vol. i. pp. 233, 455. Henry Home Drummond, Esq. of Blair Drummond, Stirlingshire, and proprietor of Northfield, Berwickshire, grandson of Lord Kames, is nearest male heir to the Earldom of Dunbar.



been of considerable size. Swain, priest of Fishwick, who flourished during the reign of David I., held the village of the Prior of Coldingham, *ad firmam in feudo et hereditate*, and after his death it was consecutively held by the same tenure by two of his sons, Patrick and Eustace, as we learn from the Chartulary. In 1332, Adam de Pontefract, Prior of Coldingham, granted to William de Cornoio *inter alia* a toft with a sixth part of one carrucate of land called Unthanks; in the *village* and *territory* of Renton, for the term of five years; and in 1441, three husband-lands in Renton were exchanged by David Home for certain lands in the village of Auldcambus.

At the Reformation, David Ellem paid for his land and cottages at Renton, £6. 18s.; Alexander Home of Manderstone, £2. 6s., and four heads of poultry; Renton of Billy, £2. 2s.; Laird Bowmaker, 3s.; Home of Wedderburn, 3s. 5d.; Home of Fast Castle, 3s.

The Lands of

## HOUNDWOOD

Are situated upon the north bank of the Eye, a little below those of Renton. They originally formed a part of the forest attached to the Priory, and there are still considerable remnants of their ancient groves. During the fifteenth century, the six merk-lands of Houndwood were assigned to the Homes as hereditary bailiffs of the Priory; and regarding them, the latter had considerable disputes with the mother church of Durham.

By charter, dated at Mordington, 9th May, 1554, John Stuart, commendator of Coldingham, granted *in feudo et hereditate* the three merk-lands of Houndwood to Sir Patrick Home of Ayton; and about the same time the remaining portion was bestowed by him upon Sir John Home of Dunse. By a deed, dated 1573,

together with the lands of Fairneyside, they were sold to Alexander Home of Kimmergham, in whose family they continued till the year 1713, when they were purchased by Mark Ker, Esq. ancestor of the present proprietrix, Mrs. Sarah Coulson.

Like Houndwood, the estate of

### PRESS

Seems to have derived its name from the circumstance of its having been at one period covered with wood; the ancient British word *preas* having been employed to indicate a *thicket*, or, in a more extended sense, a *wood*. Its groves, however, would seem to have disappeared, or to have been of very inconsiderable extent, so early as the reign of William the Lion, as they are not enumerated among the woods confirmed by that monarch to the Priory, within the confines of which they were situated; nor are they elsewhere adverted to in the chartularies. At the Reformation, they were held of the Priory by Sir Alexander Home of Manderston, who paid for them annually the sum of £4. After passing through several other proprietors, the estate now belongs to Thomas Henderson, Esq. Near Press, the rivulet of Ale, which joins the Eye about a mile above the sea, is formed by the union of three small brooks from the marshes of Coldingham Moor at a place called Three-burn-grange\*.

\* It may not be deemed irrelevant here to notice, that during last century, a prophetic *saw*, somewhat akin to those imputed to the gifted Thomas of Ercildoun, was current in this district of Scotland, purporting, that, at some future time, a male child should be born here having three thumbs; that a dreadful battle should be fought hard by; that the said child, when grown up, should have the honour of holding the reins of three kings' horses, and that the three brooks should run for three days with blood; or, according to a rhyme transmitted to us by Mr. Henderson, Chirnside—

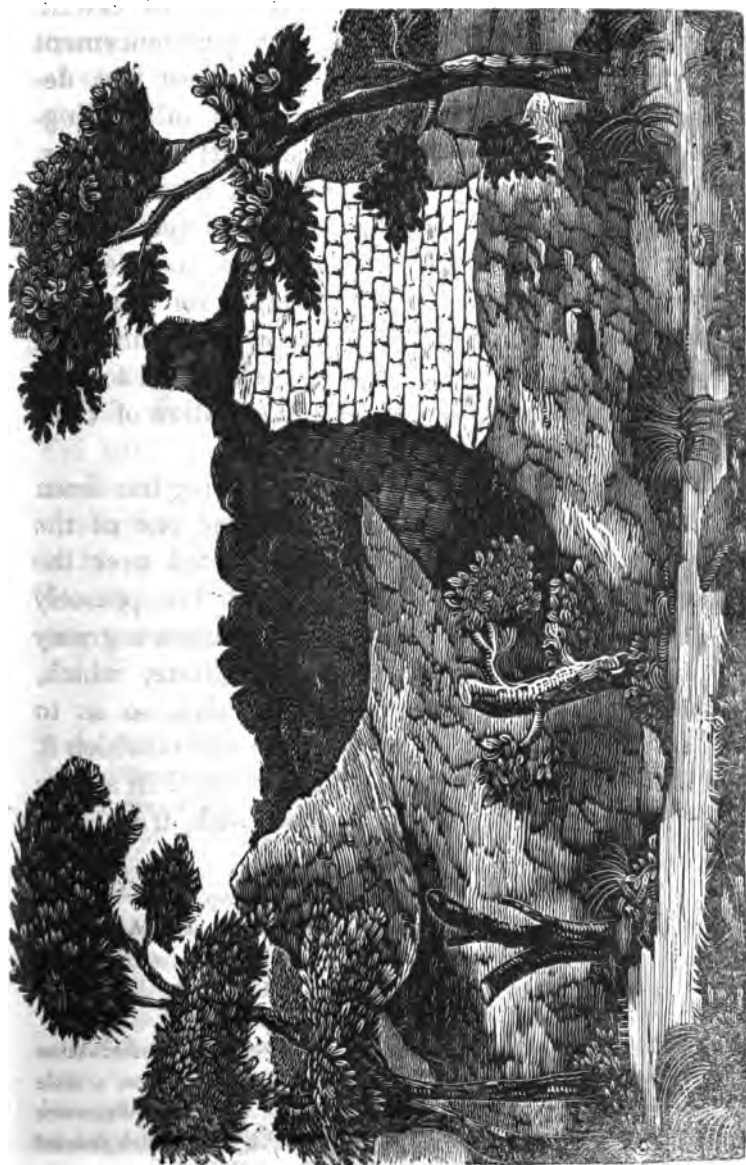
## BILLY.

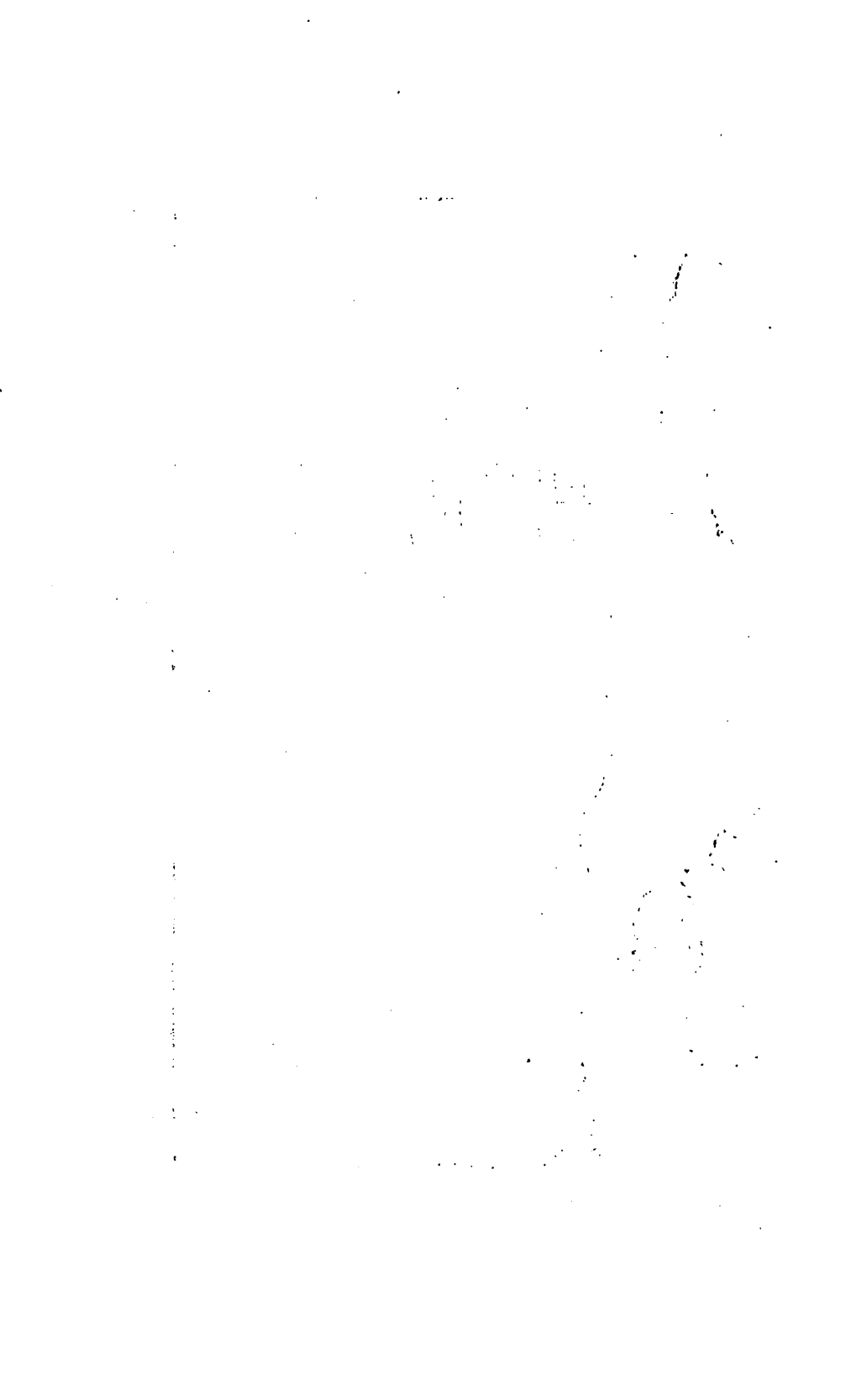
The lands anciently so called were of great extent. At the latter part of the twelfth, or commencement of the thirteenth century, one-half of them was decided to be the property of the monks of Coldingham—the other to belong to Patrick, Earl of Dunbar, who succeeded his father in 1182, and died in 1232. That part of the property which pertained to the Priory, as the charter informs us, was bounded on the north-east by the village of Reston, on the west by Auchencraw, and on the east by Blackburn and Chirnside; and over this the monks continued to hold a superiority till the period of the dissolution of their house.

The Castle of Billy, of which a drawing has been taken in its present dilapidated state, was one of the many rude fortalices which were erected over the country to protect the possessions of the princely house of Dunbar. Its remains stand upon a grassy knoll, defended on three sides by a quagmire, which, in former times, must have been impassable, so as to have formed a valuable security to the fortlet which it almost environed. From its being situated in a very sequestered situation, overshadowed with trees, it is

At Three-burn-grange at ane after day  
 There sall be ane lang and ane bluidy fray,  
 When a three-thumbit wight by the reins sall hauld  
 Three kingis horsis baith stout and bauld,  
 And the three burns three dayis sall rin  
 Wi' the bluid o' the slain that fa' therein!

Wonderful to tell! when the country people were in consternation some years bygone, in expectation of an invasion from France, a male child was born at Renton, about three miles distant, with an excrescence resembling a *third* thumb, growing from the right hand, which seemed to promise a speedy fulfilment of the prediction. Unfortunately for the credit of the soothsayer, no such lamentable catastrophe has yet taken place.





very apt to escape the notice of the traveller. Deserted and insignificant as its ruins certainly are, there are records still extant to prove that, while the lordly house of Dunbar was at the height of its glory, its chieftains did not disdain to harbour themselves and their followers within its walls, when they repaired to the Borders for purposes of peace or of war \*. The forfeiture of the Earl of Dunbar in 1435, rendered Billy and its fortress a possession of a family scarcely less powerful and august,—that of Angus, which had but shortly before become proprietors of the adjacent lands of Buncle, and which was destined to rise upon the ruins of the Dunbars †. As has been elsewhere noticed, the turbulent Archibald, Earl of Angus, took up his abode here in 1528, while Tantallon, the ancient stronghold of his fathers, was battered by the artillery of his irritated Sovereign. By act of Parliament, 10th December 1540, Billy, and all the other estates belonging to Angus, were annexed to the Crown.

\* In one of the papers above adverted to, we find a mandate of Robert III. to the deputy warden of the Eastern Marches, enjoining him, without delay, to seize the castles of Billie and Coldbrandspath, and to transport whatever provisions and wine he might find therein to Coltingham for the use of the monks, on account of the rebellion of George, Earl of March. “*Ut stauri tam vivi quam mortui, casei, vini commestus quicunque, qui apud castra de Billie et Colbrindispeth servantur ad prioratum de Coldyngheam transportentur et ad usum monachorum ibi manentibus applicentur.*”

† The lands of Buncle gave name to a family of considerable repute during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Sir Alexander de Bonkill, who died in 1300, left an only daughter Elizabeth, who, about the year 1288, married Sir John Stewart, second son of Alexander, the High Steward of Scotland. His descendant, John Stewart, was created Earl of Angus by Robert Bruce, 7th June 1320. Buncle was annexed to the Crown by act of Parliament, 10th December 1540; but the sentence was reversed 15th March 1542–3.—Chal. Caled. vol. ii. p. 371. Acts of Scots Parl. II. 361.

Billy next became the property of David Renton, Esq. of Lamberton. By charter, of date 6th March 1557, the lands of Billy called Nunsmeadow, Nunshutte and Nunslat, which belonged to the Priory of St. Bathans, were conveyed and granted by Dame Elizabeth Lamb, Prioress of St. Bathans, with consent of Margaret Chirnside, Janet Craw, and Margaret Young, conventual sisters, in favour of John, son and heir apparent of the above named David Renton \*. This charter is preserved in the Charter-chest of the Earl of Haddington, having a seal which represents the Virgin and Child. The nuns had, during the 13th century, made an agreement with the Prior and monks of Coldingham to pay the latter, for their tithes of hay from a meadow at Billie, twelve pennies, or a pound of pepper yearly †. The family of Renton continued to be proprietors of Billy till about the beginning of last century, when it was purchased by Ninian Home, minister of Buncle, whose descendants have since possessed it. It is at present the property of William F. Home, Esq.

#### AUCHENCRAW,

A rural village situated about a mile from the ruins of Billy, contains about forty houses, inhabited for the most part by industrious mechanics and labourers. Above is the form in which the name is commonly spelt, though in deeds of the 13th and 14th centuries, wherein we find it first noticed, Aldencrawe and Aldengrawe are the names by which it is indicated,

\* Agnes, daughter of Renton of Billy, was the first wife of Alexander Lesly, first Earl of Leven, who commanded the Covenanting army at Dunse-law in May 1639. She died at Inchmartin, 26th June 1651, leaving to the Earl two sons and five daughters.—Doug. Peer. ii. 116.

† Chart. Coldingham.

It is usually pronounced Edincraw, the letter *l* being omitted. At the epoch of the Reformation, the lands were, as now, parcelled out in small lots among a number of proprietors or lairds, all of whom paid to the Priory an annual rent for their respective allotments. The names of the Proprietors about that period (1561), and the sums levied from each by the monks, will be found in the Rental of the Monastery, then made up as follows :—

“ Item the landis thereof in William Paxton’s *	s. d.
hands in feu ferm yerle	xvi 0
“ Item Alexander Lord Home for his landis	iv xiii
“ Item the Laird of Billie	v vi
“ Item Jhone Home of Blacattore ( <i>Blackadder</i> )	iv i
“ Item Mr. Archbald Rentone ( <i>Notary Public</i> )	
ther as occupyer of ane part	xxii
“ Item Alexander Home of Manderston for	
his landis ther	xxiii
“ Item William Boge †	xxii
“ Item the Laird of Fascastil	xi iv
“ Item the Laird of Blackatter for Laird	
Dewar’s landis	xxii
“ The pennie Mail of Auchencraw and	
Annual Rent thereof extends to	
XLVI Sh : VII D.”	

\* The family of Paxton had for several centuries been proprietors of land at Auchencraw. Edward III., who reigned between the years 1335 and 1376, issued a charter at Newcastle, restoring to Lucia de Paxton the whole land of *Aldencrawe*, and the half of one net in the fishery of the Tweed, called Brade, formerly the property of William de Paxton, which the sheriff of Berwick had seized, when that town surrendered to the Scots, (*Rot. Scot. i. 266.*) Their lineal descendant possessed land there so recently as the middle of last century.

† He acquired this land by marrying Janet, daughter of James Kello, the former proprietor. [Deed in possession of Mr. Wm. Boag, Linthill, representative of this family.]



A Common of considerable extent was appropriated by these Lairds for the pasturage of their flocks ; and for the prevention of disputes, and the punishment of offenders, a code of laws, called The Boorlaw, were enacted and enforced by a *quorum* of legislators elected from this rustic community, who held the dignified title of the Birlaw or Boorlaw Men. This simple statute book is in the possession of Wm. Hood, Esq. proprietor of the contiguous estate of Sunnyside ; and as a perusal of it may perhaps not be uninteresting to some of our readers, a copy is printed in the Appendix\*. It is here also proper to mention, that Logan of Restalrig was proprietor of a considerable part of the land of Auchencraw at the latter end of the sixteenth century ; and the author has in his possession a feu-charter of land here, granted by him to James Bour,—the “silly auld gleyit carle,” who carried Logan’s letters, relative to the Gowrie conspiracy, from Fast Castle to Perth. The instrument bears the signature and seal of Logan, and is dated 16th October 1597, from Gunsgreen†.

In conformity with the usual custom, the earlier proprietors of Auchencraw assumed it for a surname. Thus, during the reign of William the Lion, we find Adam de Aldengraue among the witnesses to a charter of renunciation of David de Quixwood, in Prior Arnald’s court at Homelinoll. Nor was this surname abandoned till long after the family had ceased to have any connection with the property from which it was derived. At the Reformation, George Auchencraw is formally entered in the Rental as paying yearly to the Priory, for a cottage in Coldingham, two shillings. As a family name, however, it is now obsolete.

\* See Appendix, No. 10.      † See Appendix, No. 11.

On the farm of Auchencraw-mains, the foundations of a very considerable number of houses have been exposed within the course of these few years, which renders it somewhat doubtful, whether the ancient village of Auchencraw occupied the same site as the hamlet now so named.

### EAST AND WEST RESTON.

The lands of Reston were originally added to Coldingham monastery by King Edgar, and were for centuries afterwards held of the monks in feu-farm by a family of the same name. Roger de Reston, the first member of the family whom we find noticed, in 1166 attested a deed of Waldeve, Earl of Dunbar, relating to the property of Renton, which had belonged to Swain, priest of Fishwick. About the year 1460, William Cockburn, baron of Langton, became proprietor of the lands of East Reston, having married Helen, daughter and heiress of Reginald de Reston; and about the same period the lands of West Reston fell into the hands of a branch of the family of Home. At the Reformation these lands were held as follows:—

#### 1. EAST RESTON.

“Item the lands of Eist Restoun in feu-ferme to George Kowand yeirlie, conforme to the Chartour, iiii lib.

“Item the Laird Fysches lands payand yeirlie, lyand in the said town, v s.

“Item the Laird Langtoun's lands, payand yeirlie, iiii s.

#### 2. WEST RESTON.

West Restoun contenand xxiii husband-lands, ilk land payand yeirlie xlii s. iij d. and in castel warke vii d. at the Whitundayis terme mair nor at the Martinmass with iiii Caponis and ans Poutrie, except Jhane Humes

landis quhilk payis but xii Caponis conforme to his Chartour.

“Item Jhone Home in West Restoun having four husband-landis in feu-ferme payand yerle v lib. vi s. viii d.; in Castel Warkis v s. iv d.; in Caponis yerle conforme to his Chartour xii Caponis; in Poutre xxiv.

“Item Patrick Craw for four husband-landis in feu-ferme payand yerle xliii s. iv d.; in Castel Warkis ii s. viii d.; in Caponis xii; in Poutry iv.

“Item the Laird Butterdean for three husband-landis yerle x lib.; in Castel Warkis ii s.; in Caponis ix; in Poutry ii s.

“Item George Craw of East Restoun for three husband-lands yerle xiv lib.; in Castel Warkis ii s.; in Caponis ix; in Poutry iii.

“Item Gilbert Ellem for two husband-landis xxv s. viii d. in Castel Warkis -----; in Caponis vi; in Poutry ii.

“Item James Craw payand for ane husband-land xiii s. viii d.; in Castel Warkis viii d.; in Caponis iii; in Poutry i.

“Item Robert Fair for ane husband-land xiii s. iv d.; in Castel Warkis viii d.; Caponis iii; Poutry i.

“Item George Johnstoun having ane husband-land in nynteen years payand yerle therfor xiii s. iv d.; Castel Warkis iii d.; in Caponis iii; in Poutre i.

“The soume of the pennie mail of West Restoun, extending yerle to xv lib. vi s. iv d.; Caponis yerly for said landis extending to lvii; of Poutre yerle xxxix.”

The lands of West Reston are now as formerly parcelled out among a number of small proprietors. The village is pleasantly situated on the southern bank of the Eye, about three miles from Coldingham. Near its eastern extremity, and over-hanging the river, were, a few years ago, to be seen the remains of a tower or

peel-house, in which the inhabitants used to secure their property from being pillaged by an enemy in more turbulent times. On the other side of the river, and nearly opposite to Reston-peel, stood a similar erection, the property of the Craws of Heughead. The village and fortalice of East Reston, which stood about half a mile farther down the river, has long ago disappeared. From its being anciently a possession of the barons of Langton, the latter went under the name of Langton Tower. It continued to be the seat of the family of Craw till the year 1716, when the estate was forfeited, in consequence of the proprietor, Robert Craw, having engaged in the Earl of Marr's rebellion. Its rental, as appears from the survey then made by the Commissioners of Enquiry, was then as is subjoined \*.

These lands, which are now wholly cultivated, appear at an early period to have been extensively covered with wood, the whole of which (*totum nemus de Ristun*) was granted by William the Lion to the Coldingham monks.

On the opposite side of the Eye formerly stood the village of

### SWINEWOOD,

Which was anciently the property of the Earls of Dunbar. Between the years 1182 and 1232, however, Patrick, son of the Earl of Dunbar, made it over "to God, St. Mary, St. Cuthbert, St. Ebb, and the Durham monks serving God at Coldingham," for an hundred

\* Rental of the estate of Robert Craw, late of East Renton:—

	£	s.	d.
Money, or rent payable in Money - -	91	14	5
Barley 25 bolls at 10s. 5d. per boll -	13	0	5
Oats 48 bolls at ditto per boll -	25	0	0
Capons 60 at 8d. each - - - - -	2	0	0
Hens 24 at 5d. each - - - - -	0	10	0
Carriages, 63 at 1s. 8d. each - - -	5	5	0

£137 9 10

marks of silver, which sum was duly paid by Thomas Melsonby the Prior, as the Earl's letter of receipt, preserved at Durham, evinces. About the same period its Wood was granted to them by William the Lion. The village and lands were long held of the Priory by the Homes of Prendergust, and, at the Reformation, William Home was entered in the rental as paying for them yearly £12. 2s. 4d., with 43 capons and 22 head of poultry. Swinewood is now the property of W. F. Home, Esq.

Pursuing the course of the Eye towards its mouth, the lands next in succession are those of

#### AYTON.

Two places of this name occur in Edgar's charter of endowment, one of which was probably the village which occupied nearly the same site as the present one,—the other the place called Nether Ayton, on the south-east bank of the river, and somewhat lower in its course. In some of the earliest charters the name is spelt exactly as at the present day; in others, Eitun and Eiton. The etymology of both forms of the word is very obvious—the town on the river. Shortly subsequent to the Conquest, a branch of the Anglo-Norman race of De Vescie settled here, and assumed from their place of abode the name of De Ayton or De Eiton; Helias and Dolfinus de Eitun attested a charter of Waldeve, Earl of Dunbar, about the year 1166. Stephanus de Eyton occurs as witness to a charter “de quieta clamatione de terra de Swintona,” granted by his son Earl Patrick, who died in 1232. In the reign of William the Lion, Helias, Mauricius, and Adam de Eitun are among the witnesses to a donation of David de Quixwood to the lazaret or hospital of lepers at AuldCambus. In 1331, Adam, the Prior of Coldingham, acknowledged a grant made to him of land for

the site of a mill near the bridge of Ayton, by Adam, the son of William de Aytoun. Robert de Ayton was among the number of the Scots slain at the battle of Nesbit-moor, 22d June 1402\*. The Aytons of Inchdairney in Fife are said to be the lineal descendants of this ancient family.

By charter, of date 29th November 1472, the greater part of the lands of Ayton, with those of Whitfield, were granted to George de Home, son of Sir Alexander Home of Dunglass, who thus became ancestor of the Homes of Ayton. He was uncle to Alexander Home, and brother to Sir Patrick Home of Fast Castle. He was one of the Scottish commissioners appointed to meet at Hauden Stank and Reading-burn, in October 1484, to settle border disputes. His son and successor George, was among the persons of distinction who were with Oliver Sinclair at the disastrous rout at Solway Moss in 1542, and taken prisoner. He was afterwards ransomed for £200 sterling†. He, with his brother David Home of Wedderburn, with

\* Vide Charters in Appendix to Raines' N. Durham, Charters in Appendix to Part II. of the present volume, and Chartulary of Coldingham, in the Advocates' Library. Nesbit-moor, the scene of the battle above adverted to, is in the parish of Edrom, a few miles beyond our district. A party of Scots, under Patrick Hepburn, chieftain of Hailes, returning from an inroad into England, laden with booty, were there overtaken by the English, when the greater part of them, with their leader, were slain.

† Reg. Mag. Sigil. LVII. Wood's Edition of Douglas's Peerage, i. 784.; Ridpath's Border History, p. 542.; Act Parl. Scot. ii. 462.; Godscroft relates the following anecdote of his kinsman, David of Wedderburn, when proprietor of part of Ayton estate. "He had resolved to build a mill on the water of Ay, a little below the town of Aiton, which had already come a pretty great length, the dam head and mill dam being both finished, and I believe that some corp had even been grinded at it, whence it became contrary to the law to draw off the water from it by any manner of way whatever. One James Craw of Gunsgreen dwelt in the neighbourhood, and had built a mill a little below, which was quite useless, as David's had drawn off almost the

John Home of Blackadder, and other gentlemen of the Merse, agreed at Linlithgow, 4th October 1545, to assist to the uttermost of his power the body of 1000 horse, which the king had sent to defend the border country "against the thievis and tratouris, as well as the English." Sir Patrick Home succeeded to the estate, a small moiety of which, at the Reformation, seems also to have belonged to the Homes of Fast whole water, and was otherwise very incommodious to him. This he did not perceive till his own mill was almost finished. He therefore in the night-time removed the stones and turf which made up David's dam-head, and let the water down to his mill. This he did not do so privately as to prevent it being publickly said by all that he was the actor of it; and it was he alone that could reap any benefit from it. This seemed to David to be a very arrogant action, and he was flushed with indignation that this man should have dared to be guilty of it; and as he well knew that the allowing the first injury to pass unpunished gives occasion to more, he resolved to be revenged for it. Many advised him to put him to death, as the only adequate punishment, but that was as far from his intention, as was all savageness and cruelty. Wherefore that he might at the same time repair his own honour, and take care of the man's life, he sent his uncle John with a few choice horsemen to intercept him in the fields, and bring him to him. But because John was more incensed against Craw, on account that his nephew had given the mill to him; and as he was of a violent temper, David feared that he might commit some hardships against the man, or endanger his life. He therefore sent his brother George along with him, in order to check and moderate his uncle's fire, and went himself to the castle of Aitoun, that he might be at hand, if occasion required. They meeting the man in the field, hasten towards him; but before they could come up with him, he threw himself into the house of Bastilerig, and barring the doors, prepared to defend himself. John had continued battering against the door for some time, when at last he firing, he resolved to shoot Craw through the door, which he was only prevented doing by George striking the gun out of his hand. The fugitive at length surrendered to George, and was conducted to Aitoun castle to his brother, who exacted nothing more than that he should replace some of the stones with his own hand. Which being done, he was dismissed, after promising not to disturb the mill for the future, saying only that he had never before borne so heavy a burden."—*Manuscript History of the Homes.*

Castle and Wedderburn. From the rental it appears that Sir Patrick paid to the monastery £1. 13s. 4d.; Wedderburn 8s. and Fast Castle 3s. A few years afterwards, Logan of Restalrig, as heir to the deceased knight of Fast Castle, became possessed also of his share of the Ayton estate; and in the hands of several of the small proprietors are still preserved many feu-charters granted and signed by this singular individual as "dominus superior baroniæ de Aytoun." The Homes retained the estate till the year 1716, when sentence of forfeiture was passed upon the honourable James Home of Ayton, second son of Charles, Earl of Home, who had rashly embarked in the Earl of Marr's vain attempt at reinstating the Stuarts upon the throne. Though his estate was confiscated, Home himself was acquitted, and is said to have lived for many years afterwards in the village of Birgham on the Tweed; and in remembrance of the ancient dwelling of his fathers on the banks of the Eye, he called his new mansion Ayton House—by which name it still goes \*. He died 5th December 1764, leaving two daughters, the eldest of whom married Alexander, ninth Earl of Home. After remaining a few years vested in the Crown, the estate was purchased by John Fordyce, Esq.

\* From the "Survey of the forfeited estates real lying in Scotland, taken by the surveyor and his deputy upon the oath of the several tenants, possessors, &c. by order of the Commissioners of Enquiry, in the years 1716 and 1717," the rental of Ayton at that period seems to have been as follows:—

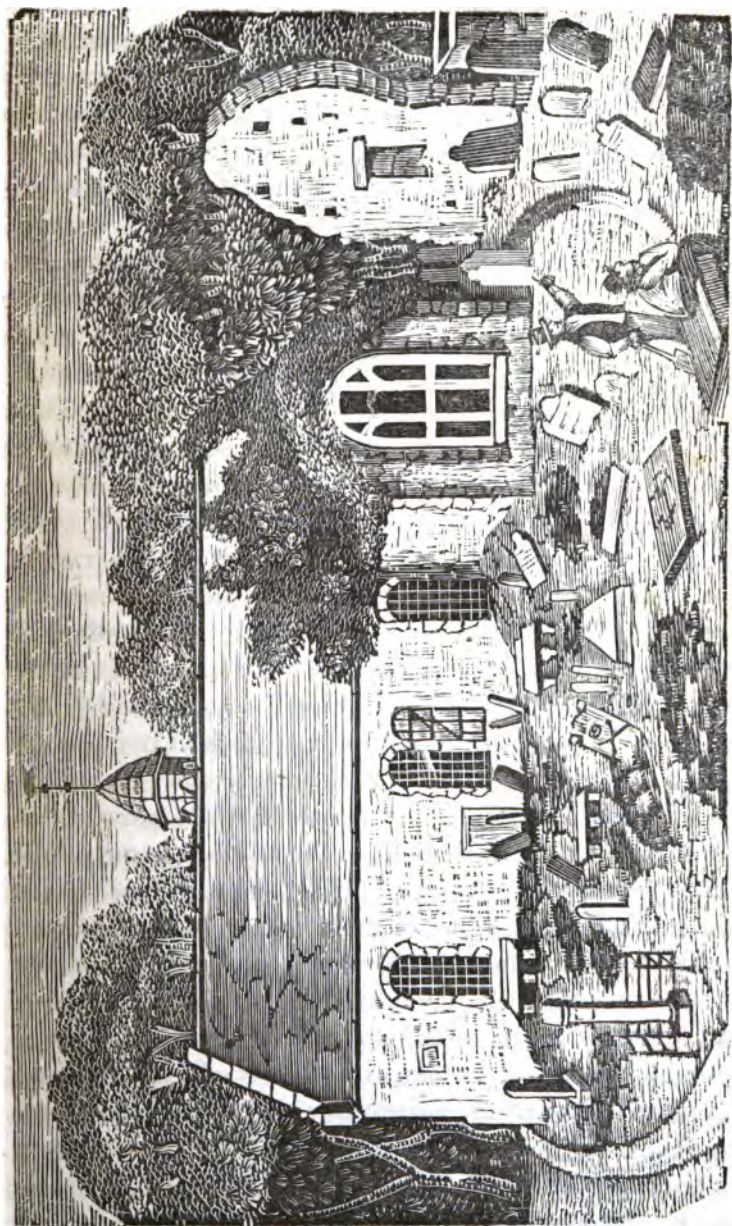
Money, Rent payable in Money	-	-	-	£114	:	16	:	0
Barley, 272 bolls, 3 firlots at 10s. 5d. per boll	142	:	1	:	1			
Oats, 96 bolls at - - - - - ditto per boll	50	:	0	:	0			
Capons, 26 at 8d. each; Hens, 195 at 6d. each	5	:	14	:	10			
Carriages, 113 at 1s. 8d. per carriage	-	-	9	:	8	:	4	
Coals, carriage of 38 loads at 6d. each	-	-	0	:	19	:	0	

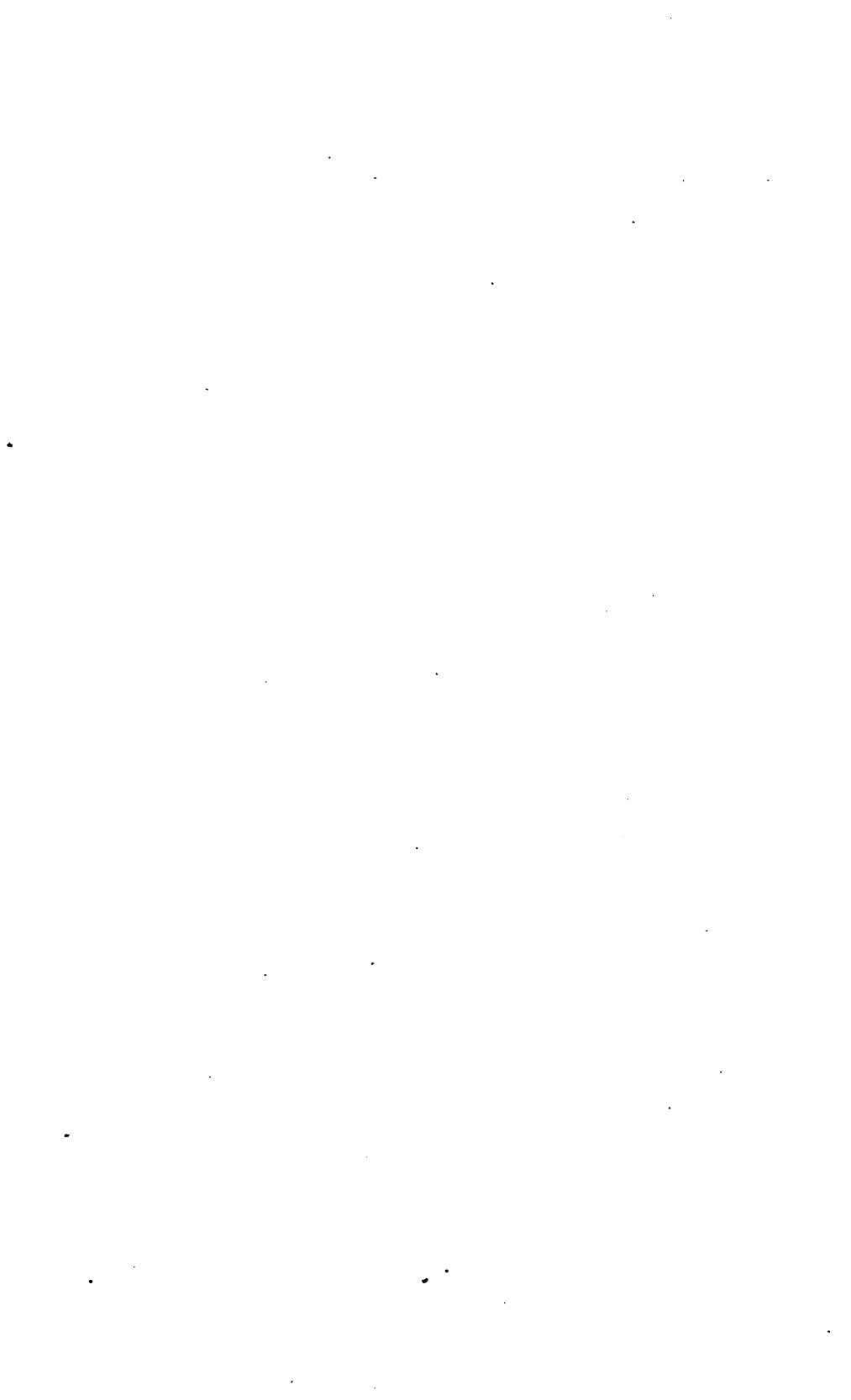


one of the commissioners upon the forfeited estates, and ancestor of the present proprietor of that name.

The ancient baronial castle of Ayton occupied the same delightful site on the banks of the Eye, as the ruins of a modern mansion-house consumed by fire in the spring of 1834. It appears to have been a place of very considerable strength, though after its destruction by Surrey, in 1497, it probably did not regain its former importance as a fortress. An old writer gives us the following account of it in 1544. "Four myles northward from Barwyck, close upon the water of Ay, standeth an old citadel, pertaining to the Homes of that part, the which is very sore diamantled by reason of the late wars. Herein are ten harquebusiers at the will of its Lord, who holdeth it for the Queen of Scots." In its vicinity stood three smaller fortalices, called Huiddie's Tower and the Wall Tower, the residences of two smaller proprietors, called Huiddie and Orkney, who long held land as vassals of the barons of Ayton. Adjacent to Ayton also, and within the same parish, are the small estates of Peelwalls and Bastelbridge, both of which, as may be inferred from their names, had formerly their respective fortresses or houses of defence. They were long the property of distinct branches of the family of Home, and there is a document extant, in which Home of Bastelbridge is styled *bailiff* of the *barony* of Peelwalls.

The ancient village was situated close under the walls of the castle, from which it claimed protection. It consisted, at the Reformation, of thirteen husband-lands, and the sum of £9. 13s. 4d. with one cain fowl for each allotment, was annually levied from it by the monks. The present village is one of the pleasantest in Scotland, and according to the census of 1831, contained 663 inhabitants.





The Church was a cell or dependancy attached to our monastery, and its advowson was vested in the Prior and a chapter of the monks. It was probably founded soon after the institution of the Priory, though the first notice of it made in the chartulary is in a deed granted upwards of a hundred years later. The names of its chaplains occasionally occur, but as little or nothing is known of their history, their insertion appears unnecessary. The first of them whom we have met with was *Robertus Parsona capellæ de Ayton*, who must have held office between the years 1166 and 1232, being the period during which the individual, whose charter he attests, flourished. The last of its chaplains under the old system, seems to have been John Home, who, on the 6th May 1554, subscribed a contract entered into by Sir Patrick Home of Ayton, and his kinsman, William Home of Prendergust. Like the greater part of our old ecclesiastic edifices, the chapel was built in the form of a St. John's cross. The present church stands upon the foundation of that part of its walls which constituted its nave. The eastern wall of the chancel, and the south wing of the transept, constructed of square hewn sand-stone, and clothed with a beautiful mantle of ivy, are its sole remains. The interior of the transept has, in more recent years, been employed as a burial vault by the family of the present proprietor. Its window, represented here, with its circular arch and massive mullions, affords a fine specimen of the intermixture between the Saxon and Norman styles of architecture, introduced into Scotland during the twelfth century.

After the arrangement of parishes, the present parishes of Ayton, Eyemouth, and Coldingham, formed the *then* parish of Coldingham. At the Reformation, Ayton was disjoined from Coldingham, and united with Lam-

berton; but not long afterwards it became, as it is now, a parish *per se*. The stipend attached to the living is sixteen chalders, with a glebe, valued at £38 yearly. The present incumbent is the Rev. George Tough.

Within the same parish is

### PRENDERGUEST,

Which is enumerated among the places granted by Edgar to the Coldingham monks, and from them the Anglo-Norman or Saxon settler assumed the name of De Prenderguest. Many members of this ancient family occur as witnesses to the donations of Edgar's successors. Baldanus and Walthevus de Prendergest flourished during the reign of David I.; Henry de P. during that of William the Lion; and Waldeve, Helias, Adam, and Henry de P. during the reigns of Alexander II. and III.\* The latter received a charter in 1265, from Hugh de Darlington, the Prior of Durham, granting him the privilege of having an oratory or private chapel within his barony of Prenderguest; "*infra curiam suam de Prenderghest.*" "Henry de P. tenens Johannes de P." also appeared before the Sheriff of Berwick, 29th September 1296†.

When John Comyn, the Regent of Scotland, submitted to Edward I. at Dunfermline, in February 1335; Peter de Prenderguest was one of the twelve knights

\* See Charters in Part II. and in the Chartulary of Coldingham. Swain, priest of Fishwick, in the reign of David I. possessed half of the land of Prenderguest, which, with his property at Fishwick, Coldingham, and Lumsdean, he resigned to the monks of Coldingham in presence of Earl Henry. During the reign of Alexander II. Robert, son of William de Scremerston, granted to Ralph the Prior of Coldingham, all his land of Prenderguest, with houses, tofts, and crofts. Hist. N. Durham, Ap. p. 16.

† Chart. Cold. and Rotul. Scot. vol. I.

whom he held in his company \*. From the records of Lindisferne Priory we learn, that in 1326 William de P. possessed somewhat of the qualifications of a border reiver, having plundered the brewery and bakehouse of that religious house, it being the first instance of its having suffered *skait* at the hands of a freebooter †; and in 1333, while Sir Alexander Seton's son remained a hostage in the hands of the English Monarch at Tweedmouth, the knight of Prenderguest was among the number of those who succeeded in throwing themselves into Berwick, and afterwards appears among the Scottish leaders at the disastrous conflict at Hali-don-hill ‡. Adam de P. his successor, seems to have sided with the English against his countrymen, and had his estate restored to him by Edward III., in 1335 §.

In 1387, Robert de Prenderguest headed a party of the English, who captured a rich stock of cattle from his countrymen on Calder-moor, in which exploit he had signalized himself by his military skill and valour. On the return home, instead of his services being appreciated as he had expected, he found himself seated at table among the servants, while others, whom he deemed less worthy, were carousing on the benches above him. Prenderguest sat sullen and reserved, neither eating nor participating in the revells of the evening; and on being asked the cause by the marshal, returned a haughty and angry answer. Incensed at

\* Ridpath's Border History, p. 220.

† History of N. Durham, Part I. p. 82.

‡ Tytler's History of Scotland, vol. ii. p. 28. Contemporary with the valorous knight above noticed, was Henry de Prenderguest, who witnessed a charter of Adam de Pontefract, Prior of Coldingham, in May 1332.—Chart. Cold.

§ Rot. Scotiæ, vol. i. p. 388.

this, the latter struck him on the head so violently, that the blood ran copiously down his cheeks. Prenderguest sat during the remainder of the evening meditating revenge. On the soldiers returning to the castle for the night, he continued in the town, determined to revenge the insult which he had sustained, as soon as a fitting opportunity should present itself. On the following day the marshal, and a few followers, entered the town, and on passing the house in which Prenderguest awaited their approach, he suddenly started out upon him, and stabbed him through the heart. He also mortally wounded three of the marshal's followers, who attempted to prevent him mounting his horse, which stood ready to bear him to a place of safety. On this he fled to St. Augustine's chapel, within the sanctuary of Holyrood, closely pursued by the English, who, on their arrival, found him kneeling before the altar in the chapel. The sanctity of the spot alone prevented them from here plunging their swords into the body of the refugee. They contented themselves with setting a strong guard upon the entrance of the chapel, and preventing either meat or drink from being conveyed to him, occasionally pricking him with the points of their swords, to prevent him enjoying the benefit of sleep. The monks, however, compassionating his miserable situation, contrived means of getting provisions introduced to him without the knowledge of the soldiers, through an aperture in the roof of the chapel; and when the latter had waited twelve days and nights, expecting to find their captive die of starvation, the holy fathers let down a rope, by which they drew him out of the chapel, and allowed him to escape. Prenderguest hastened to his countryman, William Douglas, whom he found with a party of his troops on the hills of Pentland, and imparted to him

such information as enabled him on the following evening to make a sudden attack upon the English, while they were incautiously scattered about the town, when about eighty of them were slain \*.

The baronies of Prenderguest and Whiterig, with Whitsome, and many other estates, were, by charter of 27th August 1511, granted by James IV. to Adam Hepburn, second Earl of Bothwell, High Admiral of Scotland and Sheriff of Edinburgh†. Before the Reformation‡ they had become the property of the Homes, in whose hands they long continued. The present proprietor is John Dickson, Esq.

From a letter addressed by the Earl of Northumberland to King Henry VIII. it appears that Prenderguest was among the places burnt by Sir George Douglas during his destructive inroad in 1528, and that he took there 23 persons prisoners, 60 horse, and 200 head of cattle §.

The lands of Flemington and Redhall in this parish, as has been already noticed, have obviously derived their names from their having at one period, probably during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, been the site of a Flemish colony and wool-mart. The former, during the early part of the sixteenth century, were the property of Adam Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell, from whom they passed to Robert Logan, who had them attached to his barony of Restalrig, and in 1561, paid for them to the Priory £1. 16s. yearly. The

\* Fordun's *Scotichronicon*, vol. xiii. p. 42.

† Douglas' *Peerage* (Wood's Edition), vol. i. p. 227.

‡ In the rental of Coldingham Priory, made up at the Reformation, William Home is entered as paying for his lands of Prenderguest, £3. 6s. 7d.

§ Letter preserved among the Cotton MSS. Calig. B. vii. 179 which gives a minute account of this foray.



present proprietors are T. J. Fordyce, Esq. Captain Brown, R. N. and Mrs. Meikle. The neighbouring lands of Fairneyside are now the property of Sir Abraham Home. During the fifteenth century, they formed a part of the estate of Ayton, and in 1573, Sir Patrick Home of Ayton granted a charter of them to his kinsman, Alexander Home of Kimmergham\*.

Near the mouth of the Eye, and in the same parish, are the lands of

### GUNSGREEN,

Whose history is as obscure as the origin of the name. So far as our own researches have gone, we have met with no notice of them till the year 1542, when "ter-ræ de Gunisgrene" are noticed as part of the property belonging to Sir Patrick Home of Fast Castle, from whom they passed to his profligate son-in-law Logan, by whose forfeiture in 1608, they fell to the Crown. They were soon afterwards purchased by Mr. James Craw of East Reston, whose descendants possessed that part of it, till within these few years, which goes by the name of Netherbyres, and is now the seat of Captain Brown, R. N.—a gentleman well known to the world as the inventor of the chain-cable, and constructor of suspension bridges in several parts of the kingdom. Near the northern extremity of the lands of Gunsgreen, now the property of the Rev. Abraham Home, were to be seen, about fifty years ago, the remains of a quadrangular tower, said to have been erected by Oliver Cromwell.

The name of the town or village of

### EYEMOUTH

Is sufficiently descriptive of its situation. The first

\* Douglas' Peerage, ii. ; Rental of Coldingham ; Deed in possession of Mrs. Coulson of Houndwood.

notice of it made in the Coldingham records occurs in a charter of Edward de Lestailrig, granting to the monks two tofts of land there, between the years 1174 and 1214. So early as the reign of Alexander II. its shipping was considerable, and about that time its harbour master, John Kinkborn, was summoned to the court of Ayton, to answer to a charge of having made an exorbitant demand of anchorage dues, for a vessel that had entered the port. It seems to have been much employed by the monks at that period, as a commodious harbour for importing supplies required for the support of their establishment, and for shipping the wool, hides, and other articles in which they trafficked.

In ancient documents, the town and lands of Eyemouth are generally described as lying within the barony of Coldingham, and sheriffdom of Berwick; and the proprietors held their lands and houses of the Prior and monks as the temporal superiors. Most of them, during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, belonged to the proprietors of the neighbouring estates of Renton, Ayton, and Lamberton\*. More recently, however, the Homes of Fast Castle acquired the greater part of the land in the parish, and, as heir

\* So early as the year 1250, Adam de Eiton granted to Henry de Lamberton three *tofts* of land with houses in Eyemouth, which he had purchased from Richard de Renton "*tres toftos cum domibus in villa de Aymouthe, infra baroniam de Coldyngham sita, quos olim vendidit mihi Ricardus de Reintune;*" and at Easter, 1296, William de Lamberton made a disposition to the following effect in the court of Edward I.:—"Wilelmus de Lamberton venit hic in curiam et cognovit cartam suam in haec verba—Sciant omnes, &c. quod ego Wilelmus de Lamberton dedi, &c. domino Mattheo de Redeman et Godythe, uxori eius, et eorum heredibus, vel eorum assignatis, totam terram meam cum suis edificiis et cum omnibus suis pertinentiis in villa de Aymouth, habendam, &c. in feudo et hereditate de capitalibus dominiciis illius feodi."—Chapter House Rolls, No. 9.

to the last baronet of that name, it was for some years held by Robert Logan of Restalrig. After the forfeiture of his estates, it was purchased from the Crown by Sir Lawrence Scot, by the marriage of whose only daughter, Euphemia, it passed into the family of a Colonel Winram. The estate being again exposed to sale, it was purchased by Mr. Trotter of Morton-hall, who, in 1764, disposed of it to the late Patrick Home, Esq. of Billie, in whose family it has since continued.

The parish of Eyemouth, as already noticed, till the period of the Reformation, formed a part of that of Coldingham, from which it was then disjoined. Previous to that æra, its church was one of the many dependances subordinate to the church of St. Mary at Coldingham. The names of its chaplains are occasionally met with in the Scottish chartularies, though by no means so frequently as to admit of an accurate list of them being drawn up. In the years 1295-6, Gilbert the priest (presbyter) of Eyemouth appears as witness to a confirmatory charter granted by William, Bishop of St. Andrews, to the monks of Durham. In 1340, Robert de Kellaw officiated here, but was soon afterwards elevated to the high station of Sacrist in the priory, from which he was ejected, in 1345, in consequence of his dishonesty. The last of its chaplains was probably Thomas Steele, whose name is casually noticed in a feu-charter of George Home of Wedderburn, dated 7th May, 1551 \*.

\* The names of the Episcopal chaplains, who held office between that time and the Revolution are unknown. The following Presbyterian clergymen have been subsequently ministers of the parish, 1st, 1690, Mr. Thomas Ramsay, who was inducted contrary to the wish of the people, and opposed by an Episcopal divine, Mr. James Lantie; 2d, 1699, Mr. William Gulane; 3d, 1730, Mr. William Allan; 1748, Mr. James Allan, son of the preceding; 1769, Mr. Thomas Tait; 1776,

The harbour of Eyemouth, being the only sea-port in Berwickshire, and now a market-town of considerable importance, deserves particular notice. The following extracts from a Work which treats largely on the subject, may not be unacceptable to the mercantile class of our readers :

“ It is,” says the author of the volume alluded to, “ the private property of a country gentleman, to whom some ancient small customary dues are payable from trade and shipping, but without any reciprocal obligation to improve the port, or to keep its necessary accommodations in repair, for which indeed these dues are utterly inadequate. It consequently long remained a mere open tide-creek at the influx of the Eye into a bay of some extent, and entirely exposed to the sea in several directions. In that state nothing but boats and barks, or sloops of the smallest size, could enter, and the mouth of the river was often blocked up by a bar or bank of gravel, driven in by gales from the sea, from the beach of the bay. In the old feu-charters to the vassals of Eyemouth, the feuers are taken bound to assist in clearing away such obstructions from the mouth of the river, which often accumulated so as to prevent all access or exit during weeks or months unless thus removed by labour, or by freshes or floods in the river.

“ About the year 1747, the late William Crow, Esq. of Netherbyres, a gentleman of distinguished genius, and of great mathematical and mechanical knowledge, planned what is now called the Old Pier, which he got.

Mr. James Williamson, previously minister of the High Meeting House, Berwick, and afterwards translated to Whitekirk in East Lothian, where he died ; 1790, Mr. George Todd, formerly minister of Ladykirk ; 1800, Dr. Smith. The present incumbent is the Rev. John Turnbull.

constructed by means of private subscriptions. By this, the accumulation of gravel was much prevented, in consequence of its resisting the oblique reverberation of the waves from the beach of the bay into the mouth of the river. After this, the harbour became practicable for coasting vessels of some size. Before this material improvement, hardly any thing whatever could either be imported or exported at Eyemouth. Sensible of their monopoly from situation, it is said that the traders in Berwick behaved very cavalierly to the Berwickshire farmers, who had grain to sell, and to the country gentlemen who had occasion for any imports; but after the building of this pier, and their experience of the rivalship of the trade at Eyemouth interfering materially with their own, they altered their conduct very considerably in these respects. Yet more grain, oatmeal, and malt continued to be shipped from Eyemouth than from Berwick, until that town opened its trade to resident non-freemen.

“ About 1767, the elbow of the Old Pier, constructed under the direction of Mr. Crow, was undermined by a great flood of the Eye, and fell down, greatly obstructing the harbour by a number of large stones from its ruins \*. Sensible of the great advantages de-

\* The following notice of this flood by the Rev. James Allan, written two months before his death, was published during that same year. “ On Friday, 7th January, 1767, we had a most severe storm, the wind blowing very hard, and there being then stream tides. At high water, the sea breached over most of the houses along the shore, destroyed several of the roofs, broke down the dykes of the barn-yards, overturned the corn stacks, and damaged the walls of sundry strong houses. Not a few families left their houses, and were with difficulty preserved from being drowned. The high street was like a little sea; the other houses along the river side were in no better condition, the windows of them being broke, the under floors tore up, and partitions beat down. The furniture was greatly destroyed, and considerable damage done in the

rived from this pier, and wishing to protect the harbour from the sea, which made free passage, in heavy gales, over the rocks where the New Pier now stands, the gentlemen of the county got the late highly celebrated Mr. Smeaton to inspect the place, and to examine ship-masters and pilots, that he might direct such improvements as he should judge necessary. He accordingly planned the New Pier, which was begun in 1769, and finished in 1773, at the expence of £2,100.

“ In 1796, a resolution was formed, to endeavour to procure funds for rebuilding the gap in the old pier, and a further breach of its turret or extremity which took place from an immense flood of the Eye in November 1794, and for repairing the parapets of the new pier, which had become defective. Private subscriptions were procured to the extent of nearly £1000, and a donation was given of £300 by the Convention of the Scots royal boroughs. In consequence of these aids, the necessary works were commenced. Sensible, however, that nothing permanent could be effected without some regular and settled income for repairs and farther improvements, an act of Parliament was procured in 1797, imposing certain duties on vessels coming into the harbour, and vested under the management of trustees, with perpetual succession, for the express purpose of repairing, improving, and deepening the harbour \*.

cellars. All the dykes along the river are broke down ; two of five ships in the harbour drove up the river so far that a common tide will not flow near to them, and all the timber on the quay was carried a long way up the river.”—Universal Museum, 1767.

\* Berwickshire Agricultural Report, pp. 9, 10, 11. drawn up in 1809, by Robert Kerr, Esq., F.A.S. E. The harbour dues of Eyemouth imposed by this act, are one penny for every quarter of grain, malt, meal, and flour ; sixpence *per* ton on potatoes ; one half-penny *per* bushel on salt shipped from, or landed in the harbour ; two-pence

In former days a considerable contraband trade in wine, foreign spirits, tea and tobacco, was carried on at Eyemouth, and most of the old houses seem to have been constructed with a view to accommodation in this respect and the prevention of discovery. This illicit traffic has, however, by the amendment, and better execution of the revenue laws, been long since abolished. A weekly corn-market, held on Thursday, was established in January 1832, in which the greater part of the grain produced in the neighbourhood is disposed of. During the first year of its existence, the sale is said to have amounted to £20,000.

On the summit of a bold and somewhat triangular shaped boundary of Eyemouth bay, stood the Fort erected by the Duke of Somerset in the winter of 1547, and of which he appointed Sir Thomas Gower, Marshal of Berwick, to be governor. The foundations of the walls of a small quadrangular tower on the verge of a deep trench at the landward extremity of the cliff, are its sole architectural record. A series of oblong mounds and pits, evidently artificial, are scattered around it.

It may here be noticed, that in the year 1787, Robert Burns, the poet, in the course of his border tour, paid a visit to Eyemouth, when the brethren of St. Abb's Lodge of Freemasons did themselves the honour of *making* him a Royal Arch Mason, without exacting the customary fee of admission \*.

*per* ton register, on all vessels which may arrive in the harbour to load or unload their cargoes or any part thereof; one penny *per* ton register, on all other ships or vessels that may enter the harbour, excepting foreign vessels, from each of which a guinea is exacted.

\* The following entry occurs in the Lodge Books:—

“ *Eyemouth, 19th May, 1787.*

“ At a general encampment held this day, the following brethren

At the Reformation, the Priory received in yearly rental from the town of Eyemouth, £2. 2s. 3d. with 74 heads of poultry; from the lands of Highlaws, *then* belonging to Sir Alexander Home of Manderstone, *now* to David Renton, Esq., £2. 3s. 4d.; from Bearrig, then belonging to the former, now to William F. Home, Esq., £2. 8s. 4d. with 7 fowls; the mill of Eyemouth, held by William Home of Prendergust, £6. The lands of Linthill, which then belonged to the last-named individual, and held by his descendants till the beginning of last century, when they were purchased by Ninian Home, Esq. of Billie, are not entered in the rental. In October, 1751, his son's widow was most barbarously murdered in the Mansion-house of Linthill, by her confidential servant, Norman Ross, who, with the design of robbing her of a sum of money, which he had conveyed to her from Edinburgh on the preceding day, secreted himself beneath her bed. Supposing that she had fallen asleep, he issued forth from his hiding-place, and was about to extract from her

were made Royal Arch Masons, viz.: Robert Burns from the Lodge of St. James', Tarbolton, Ayrshire, and Robert Ainslie, from the Lodge of St. Luke's, Edinburgh, by James Carmichael, William Grieve, Daniel Dow, Robert Greive, &c. &c. Robert Ainslie paid one guinea admission dues; but on account of R. Burns' *remarkable poetical genius*, the encampment unanimously agreed to admit him *gratis*, and *considered themselves honoured by having a man of such shining abilities for one of their companions.*" When in Eyemouth, the bard resided with Mr. Grieve, a respectable corn-merchant. The following is a note from his diary, published in Cunningham's *Life of Burns*:—"Come up a bold shore and over a wild country to Eyemouth, (from Berwick)—sup and sleep at Mr. Grieve's. Saturday. Spend the day at Mr. Grieve's, made a royal arch mason of St. Abb's Lodge. Mr. William Grieve the oldest brother, a joyous, warm-hearted, jolly, clever fellow—takes a hearty glass, and sings a good song. Mr. Robert, his brother and partner in trade, a good fellow, but says little.—Take a sail after dinner—Fishing of all kinds pays tithe at Eyemouth."



pocket the key of the drawer in which the money was deposited, when the lady began to move. Norman instantly drew out a clasp-knife, and rushing towards his hapless mistress, inflicted on her several fatal wounds, not, however, before she had succeeded in alarming the household, either by her cries or by pulling the bell-rope. The assassin made his escape by leaping over the window, and the unfortunate lady shortly afterwards expired. In a field of pease hard by the house, the wretched man was found a few days afterwards, with his right leg broken, in consequence of his desperate leap. He was immediately conveyed to Edinburgh, tried, and convicted of the horrid crime upon the testimony of his fellow servants, to whom "she being yet able to speak, declared that he, Norman Ross, was the person who had done that bloody deed, and directed them to look for the knife, which was accordingly done, and found behind the bed besmeared with blood." Before execution his right hand was struck off, and after it, his body suspended in chains on Leith Walk. He was the last person on whom this part of the Scottish Criminal Law was enforced\*.

### LAMBERTON.

The name is doubtless derived from a Saxon called Lambert, who here settling with his followers, gave rise to the *tun* or village, either before the conquest or within 30 years subsequent to it, as two places bore this name in 1098, when Edgar bestowed them on the Monks of Durham. These places in after years went by the names of Upper or Greater Lamberton (Superior Lamberton, or Major Lamberton) and Little Lamberton, (Parva Lamberton)—the former occupying the site of the present farm-house and offices—the

\* Newgate Calendar. Hume on Crimes, vol. ii. p. 228.

latter, perhaps, that of the farm-steading called Lamberton Shields. The manorial tenant, who held a part of these lands of the Prior of Durham, assumed from them the name of Lamberton. William de Lamberton, the first of the name whom we have met with, lived during the reign of David I. He was witness to a charter of Earl Henry, son of that monarch, confirming Cospatrick's gift of the villages of Edrom and Nesbit to St. Cuthbert's monks\*. Henry de Lamberton was one of the barons appointed in 1292, to examine the claims which Robert Bruce advanced to the Scottish crown; and 28th August 1296, he swore fealty to Edward I. at Berwick. Robert de Lamberton also swore fealty to the same monarch, within the chapel of Berwick Castle in June 1296†. William de Lamberton sold soon afterwards, a portion of land in Upper Lamberton to Roger de Goswick, which was afterwards granted by Robert I. to Henry Cosure, who was to do for the same the usual suits and services‡. From this ancient family probably sprung the famous William Lamberton, Archbishop of St. Andrews, by whose advice and assistance the immortal Bruce was encouraged in his efforts to deliver Scotland from the thralldom of the English yoke.

\* Charters in Raines' North Durham. Appendix. Part I.

† Prynn's Records of the Tower. About the same time, William de Lamberton granted to Matthew de Redeman and his wife Godythe, their heirs and assignees, all the land and houses which he possessed in the village of Lamberton, part of which he held of the Prior of the Hospital of St. John at Torphichen, and part of Ingeram de Gynes. Chapter House Rolls, 24 Ed. I.

‡ Registrum Magni Sigilli, 4. 10. The same king granted to Laurence de Abernethy the lands in the village of Lamberton, which had belonged to Ingeram de Gynes, knight, "in extantum viginti libratarum terre faciendo nobis et heredibus, &c. servicium duorum Archiepscentium in exercitu nostro ad curiam nostram vicicomitatus de Berwyc." Id. 4. 8.

Contemporary with this family, the Lindsays of Earlstoun seem to have possessed a portion of the lands of Lamberton. During the reign of William the Lion, William de Lindesay was "*dominus de Lamberton*," and granted to the monks of Coldingham the church of Ercheldun, with one ploughgate of land, and to this donation, Thomas de Lamberton is one of the witnesses \*. During the reign of Edward III. Walter de Lindesay incurred sentence of forfeiture, when the King issued a writ to William de la Vale, chamberlain of Berwick, 4th Nov. 1364, entitled "*Mandatur quod, Parva Lamberton, tanquam una terrarum prioratus Coldinghamiæ, restituatur, Priori Dunelmense*." From this it appears, that Walter de Lindsay had held the village "by doing homage, and the service of paying yearly to the Coldingham monks thirty-seven shillings and fourpence, by doing suit of court at the three head courts of the Priory, and by giving up every thirteenth measure of corn grown at Lamberton, and grown at the mill of the Priory." All the rents and arrears of rents due from the time it had come into the Chamberlain's hands, are ordered to be paid to the Prior. Accordingly De la Vale made return to the precept "*quod Prior de Coldingham, habeat redditum suum de parva Lamberton* †."

These lands were, by charter of date 10th December, 1450, granted by John, Lord Haliburton, to Sir Patrick Hepburn of Hailes, Sheriff of Berwickshire, in whose family they continued till the early part of

\* Chartulary of Newbottle. History of N. Durham, Append. p. 39.

† Rolls of Scottish Parliaments, vol. i. pp. 712, 887. Chartulary of Coldingham. The village of Little Lamberton seems to have been granted to two other persons in the interval that elapsed between Lindsay's forfeiture and the issuing of the above precept, viz.: to Hugh Gifford of Horndean and Robert de Maunsel, knight, who successively rebelled.

the following century \*. The estate then became the property of David Renton, Esq. of Billie—a descendant of the ancient foresters of Coldingham†. The Rentons of Lamberton are now represented by Alexander Campbell Renton, Esq. grandson of the last lineal descendant, Lieut. Colonel Alexander Renton.

The village and peel of Lamberton were, as has been formerly noticed, burnt and razed by the Earl of Hertford's army in 1548. Its church was a chapelry belonging to the Priory of Coldingham, to which its advowson was attached. In the ancient Taxatio of the Deanery of the Merse, it was rated at fifteen merks. A very small portion of its ancient walls in the centre of a small church-yard are still standing. Its site is now used as a burial-ground by the family of Renton of Lamberton.

In the year 1650, the parish of Lamberton was united with that of Mordington on the south-west, and, *quoad sacra*, entrusted to the clergyman of the latter. About half a mile westward from the ruins of Lamberton church is a conical eminence, called the *Witches' Knowe*, which tradition points out as the spot where, so recently as the beginning of last century, several *wise women* of the parish were consigned to the flames. No account of their trial, or of the circumstances which led to their cruel fate, has come to our knowledge; they are said to have been the last who suffered for that supposed crime previous to the wise enactment of George II., in 1722, which did infinitely more than fire or faggot to repress unholy traffickings with the Evil One.

\* Douglas' Peerage (Wood's Edition), i. 224.

† His daughter Susan, in 1543, married Andrew Haig, the twelfth in succession of the ancient barons of Bemersyde. In the course of the two succeeding centuries, the Rentons acquired the lands of Northfield, Blackadder, Fishwick, and Mordington.

At the Reformation, the estate of Lamberton possessed by Renton of Billie, was rated in the rental of the Priory at £1. 16s. yearly.

### MORDINGTON.

The lands of Mordington lie to the southward of Lamberton, and now give name to a parish comprising both. The name is anciently spelt Mordyngton; or Morthyngton; and probably is derived from its having been the settlement of a Saxon called Mordyn, or Morthyn. It constituted one of the original possessions of the Coldingham monks, and the Saxon or Norman emigrant who held them of the latter in feu, took the name of De Mordington. William de Mordington; or de Bondington, as his descendant subscribes himself in contemporary charters, held the high office of Cancellarius, or Chancellor of Scotland during the reign of Alexander II. He granted the monks of Coldingham a fishing water called *Schipeswel* in the Tweed. His charter, with its round seal bearing an armed warrior on horseback, is preserved in the Archives at Durham. He also appears as witness to some of the charters granted to the Priory by Patrick Earl of Dunbar, between the years 1182 and 1232\*. In 1249, about three months previous to the death of Alexander, he was one of the twelve knights appointed to hold a meeting for ascertaining the laws of the marches between the two kingdoms, and for enforcing their observation. Petrus de Mordington took the oath of allegiance to Edward I. at Berwick, 12th June 1291†. During the reign of Robert Bruce, his daughter Agnes de Mordington received from Edward III. an exemption from a payment of 40s. per annum, due

\* Chartulary of Coldingham.

† Rymer's *Fœdera*.

from the barony of Mordington for *castle-guard* rent to the castle of Berwick \*. She shortly afterwards, with her husband Henry de Halyburton, resigned the baronies of Mordington and Longformacus, and that monarch then bestowed them on his nephew Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray, in reward for his bravery on the field of Bannockburn †. After his death, Mordington was held in succession by his two sons, Thomas and John, both of whom fell upon the field of battle—the former at Duplin, 12th August, 1332,—the latter at Neville's Cross, 17th October, 1346. Leaving no male issue, this barony, with the other large estates belonging to the Earldom of Moray, became the property of their Amazonic sister, *Black Agnes*, Countess of Dunbar. It had, however, other nominal proprietors invested by the Crown of England ‡. When her

\* Account of Robert de Tugdale, Sheriff of Berwick, in the Pipe Rolls, 8. Ed. iii.

† Agnes de Mordington at the same time sold to John, son of Adam Bruning, "totam terram de Gillandriston in le Garmach," for 360 merks, and the sale was confirmed by Robert I. in 1331. (Regist. Mag. Sigil. 16. 34.) Her successor Randolph acquired, besides Mordington, the manor of Dunse in Berwickshire; the Isle and Calf of Man; the half of the barony of Urr in Dumfries-shire; Aberdour in Fifeshire; Morton and Tibers in Nithsdale; Mochrum in Galloway; Blantyre in Clydesdale, and Cumnock in Ayrshire. Robertson's Index, 9. Doug. Peerage, 16.

‡ The claim of Paramountcy was still maintained by the king of England. According to the Register, on account of the *rebellion* of John, son of Thomas, late Earl of Moray, Edward granted to John de Denum the lands of Morthynton and Langeford Makhous (so spelt), with the advowson of the church of the former place. At Denum's death, they fell to his sister Margaret, wife of Thomas de Dalton, who granted a charter of them to a neighbouring proprietor, Catherine de Latham, which was confirmed by Edward III. at Redyng, 13th June 1347. (Rot. Scot. i. p. 698.) About the same time, or during the reign of David II. (1330–71), Adam Hepburn of Hailes granted a charter of lands in the village of Mordington to John Renton, burgess of Berwick.—Nesbit's Heraldry, i. 237.

daughter Agnes married Sir James Douglas, of Dalkeith, the latter received a charter of the lands of Mordington from his wife's brother, George, Earl of Dunbar, dated 21st November, 1372, which was confirmed by Robert II. They continued in the possession of his successors, the Earls of Morton, till the attainder of the famous Regent Morton, in June, 1581, when they reverted to the Crown.

On the 24th August, 1634, the lands and barony of Over-Mordington were granted to Sir James Douglas, second son of William, tenth Earl of Angus, who was created a peer by Charles I. with the title of Lord Mordington, 14th November, 1641. He died 11th February, 1656, and was succeeded by his only son William in his title and estates \*. His son James, during the lifetime of his father, had a charter, "To James, Master of Mordingtoun," of the lands of Nether Mordingtoun, of date 2d August, 1662 †. The latter was succeeded by his son George Douglas, fourth Lord Mordington, who died in London, 10th June 1741. He published in 1724, "The great blessing of a Monarchical Government, when fenced about with and bounded by the laws, and these laws secured, defended and observed by the monarch. Also, that as a Popish government is inconsistent with the true happiness of these kingdoms; so great also are the miseries and confusions of anarchy. Most humbly dedicated to his Majesty by George Douglas, Lord Mordington ‡." His son Charles went to sea while young, and did not return till after the death of his

\* Mag. Sigil. L. liv. p. 322. Wood's Edition of Douglas' Peerage, ii. p. 263.

† Mag. Sigil. L. lx. p. 192.

‡ Park's Walpole, vol. v. p. 147.

father. He did not assume the title of Lord Mordington. He engaged in the rebellion of 1745, and was taken prisoner, and tried 11th September, 1746, under the designation of Charles Douglas, Esq. He then pleaded his peerage, which was objected to by the counsel for the crown; but on proving his descent, his trial was postponed, and himself remanded to the Castle of Carlisle, from which he was soon afterwards released. On the abolition of the heritable jurisdictions, in 1747, he claimed for the privilege of regality over his lands of Nether Mordington, £800, which was refused \*. He died without issue, and thus terminated the male line of the Lords Mordington †.

At the beginning of the century, a family called Hay had become proprietors of the lands of Upper Mordington. In 1747, the proprietor of that name claimed for the privilege of regality, £150, but his suit was rejected. Towards the close of the century, the whole lands of Mordington were purchased by John Renton, Esq. of Lamberton, in the hands of whose representative the greater part of them still remain.

\* Struthers' History of Scotland, p. 527.

† Charles Douglas left a sister, Mary, who assumed the title of Baroness Mordington. She died 22d July, 1791, without issue by her husband, William Werner, Esq. an officer of the royal regiment of horse guards, who fought at the battles of Dettingen and Fontenoy. The arms of this honourable, but now extinct family, were: Quarterly; 1st and 4th Argent, a man's heart, gules, ensigned with an imperial crown, proper; on a chief, azure three stars of the first for Douglas, 2d and 3d gules, three crescents for Oliphant. (The first Lord M. had married a daughter of Lord Oliphant, and laid claim to the title which was not, however, awarded him.) Crest. On a cap of dignity, a salamander in flames, reguardant, vert. Supporters. A savage, armed with a baton, and wreathed about the head and middle with laurel; sinister, a stag collared and chained, both proper. Motto, *Forward.*" Douglas' Peerage, (Wood's Edition) vol. ii. p. 264.



If the words Bondington and Mordington were, as is probable, employed to indicate the same place, this parish, during the thirteenth century, comprehended a great portion of that of Berwick; the lands of Letham and Fairnyflat being noticed in a charter of that period as lying within its limits. Its ancient church stood in a field in front of the present mansion-house called the Kirk Park, and is said to have been intentionally set fire to, and consumed about the middle of last century. Its parson, John de Paxton, was one of the few Scottish ecclesiastics who, at the ecclesiastic council held at Perth, in 1275, by order of Pope Gregory X. refused to contribute the tithe of his benefice towards expelling the Saracens from the Holy Land. The church appears, however, in the taxation of the Merse deanery assessed at twenty-four merks. His successor, Bernard de Lynton, a celebrated churchman and patriot, elsewhere noticed, held the terrors of Papal excommunication equally at defiance.

In the centre of its little cemetery, which is studded with rude and moss-clad monuments, is a gloomy burial vault. On one side of its doorway, which opens upon the east, are carved the initial letters, W. M. above a heart transfixed with a dagger, which was part of the armorial bearings of the family of Douglas—the ancient proprietors of the estate. In the interior is a tablet imbedded in its western wall, on which is represented a figure of our Saviour extended upon the cross, with an inscription in rude characters apparently Hebrew. At its base stand two figures attired in a monkish habit, one of whose heads is surmounted with the *fleur de lis*, that of the other with the thistle.





## EDRINGTON;

Has obviously derived its name from its contiguity to the river Whitadder, which forms the boundary between it and the parish of Hutton. It was one of the most ancient possessions of the monks, who seem to have long retained it in their own keeping, probably on account of the proximity of its fisheries; as no tenant bearing this name, occurs in the chartularies. The village, together with the fishing water of Eddermouth, and the mills of Edrington and Berwick, were, by charter, dated 10th October, 1385, bestowed upon William de Pressin, Lord Warden of Jedburgh forest, in reward for his having taken prisoner, Sir Andrew Murray, the Regent of Scotland, and confining him in Bamburgh Castle. As an acknowledgment, an yearly payment of a hundred and ten merks was exacted\*. Robert II. by charter, 27th June, 1376-7, granted to John de Roos and John Lyoun, the mill of Edrington, which, with other property adjacent, had been forfeited by the rebellion of Adam de Paxton, for which he was to pay yearly one penny under the name of *alba firma*†. The manor of Edrington and the neighbouring lands of Letham, with their pertinents, were next granted to Thomas de Knayton and his heirs for ever, in reward for his good service, he being required to pay for them

\* Rotul. Scot. vol. i. p. 720. The whole property thus granted to Pressin was then valued at £107. 3s. 7d. in time of peace. The surplus of their value, above the said rent, being 50 merks, 10 shillings and 3d. yearly. Pressin was to retain them till the King should put him in possession of land in England, to the amount of £20. of yearly value. But as soon as he received such a grant, he was required to pay the above sum for the village, fishing-water, and mills.

† Regist. Mag. Sigil. 13. 20. *Alba firma* was so called to distinguish it from another exaction, named *black-mail*.

the sum of £40. per annum. The deed is dated at Westminster, 17th March, 1391-1400\*.

About the year 1450, it was granted by James II. of Scotland, to Robert Lauder of Bass, who seems to have held it conjointly with the descendant of William de Pressin above mentioned. Lauder was a person of some consequence, and was frequently employed in official business connected with the government of the borders. On the 2d February, 1477, with Lord Home and Adam Blackadder of that ilk, he was deputed by James III. to conduct safely to Edinburgh the persons who were conveying from Edward IV. two thousand merks as an instalment of his daughter Cicily's portion†. On the 13th Sept., 1489, he purchased from Hugh, son of Sir Patrick Dunbar, his lands of Beil in East Lothian, and his mill of Mersington in Berwickshire. The estate next became the property of a family called Ogilvy, from whom, at the close of the 17th century, it was purchased by John Douglas, D. D., son of Douglas of Parkhead, and brother of Douglas, Lord Mordington‡.

The ancient castle of Edrington occupied the summit of a steep craggy bank, overhanging the Whitadder, and was deemed a place of considerable strength and importance. In consequence of its proximity to the border, like the neighbouring fortress of Berwick, it served somewhat of the purpose of a shuttlecock, being seldom retained long in the hands of either nation. It was one of the many places in Berwickshire burnt by the Duke of Gloucester's army, in July 1482, but was soon afterwards rebuilt, and fortified by order

\* Rotul. Scot. vol. ii. p. 153.

† Douglas' Peerage, vol. ii. p. 172. MS. History of the Homes. Rymer's Fœdera, vol. xii. p. 41.

‡ Chart. Coldingham. Douglas' Peerage. vol. ii. p. 266.

of the Scottish Parliament. In 1518, its English garrison, under its proprietor, William Pressin, was overpowered by a party of borderers led on by Sir David Home of Wedderburn, who afterwards voluntarily resigned it. In 1534, on the cessation of hostilities between the two kingdoms, Henry VIII. restored the castle and manor to James V. as a proof of the gratitude and friendship which he entertained towards him. A fresh war breaking out, it was recaptured by the English. In 1546, the Scots demanded that their *house* of Edrington, on the east border, should be immediately restored to them; and, in accordance with a treaty concluded in the church of Norham, Edward VI. delivered up to them the castle, and mill belonging to it commonly called the Cawmills, with its lands, fisheries and other dependancies. In 1558, on the recommencement of disturbances, the castle was once more taken by the English. Its garrison, consisting of twelve Frenchmen, made such a brave defence, that several of the assailants were slain during the siege. At the Union, it was dismantled and suffered to fall into decay\*.

At the Reformation, Ogilvy of Edrington paid to the Priory for his estate, £14.

In a romantic vale, a little below the ruins of the castle, is said to have stood the cottage of the renowned "Tibby Fowler o' the Glen," the heroine of one of our most popular Scottish songs.

Westward from Mordington are situated the lands and parish of

\* Rymer's *Fœdera*, vol. xii. Ridpath's *Border History*, p. 591. Holinshead's *Scottish Chronicle*, p. 364. "They say of Edrington that it is a waste incomplete house, marching with the bounds of Berwick, and as the use hath been, that as often as it was taken in war, it was delivered again at the making of peace."

## FOULDEN,

Which was also one of the most ancient possessions of the Coldingham monks. The origin of the name is somewhat obscure, as the conjunct Saxon words *ful* and *den* may be made to imply properties on the part of the glen from which it seems to be derived, diametrically opposed to each other.

At the conclusion of the 13th century, Foulden was a manor of the ancient family of Ramsay, and continued so for about three hundred years. In the years 1296 and 1304, William Ramsay de Fulden demeaned himself by taking the oath of allegiance to Edward I. at Berwick, but soon afterwards made amends for his defaulture by espousing the cause of King Robert Bruce, and signing the famous address to the Pope at Arbroath, 6th April, 1320. Sir Alexander Ramsay had the baronies of Foulden and Dalhousie granted to him by James II. He died before the 19th March, 1466, and was succeeded by his son, Sir Alexander, to whom they were confirmed by James III., 22d March, 1473. Nichol de Ramsay had a commission of justiciary on Foulden, 2d May, 1542; and his eldest son and successor, George, in whom the male line of the family of Ramsay terminated, received a charter of the barony, with the advowson of the church, 20th May, 1528. He died 4th January, 1592\*.

Foulden then became the property of Sir John Wilkie, whose daughter and heiress Agnes, married William Lord Ross, 9th February, 1679, who thus became baron of Foulden†. Since his Lordship's death, it has continued in the family of Wilkie.

\* Pryne's Records, vol. iii. p. 663. Rymer's *Fœdera*, vol. i. p. 215. Fordun's *Scotichronicon*, vol. ii. 275. Douglas' *Peerage*, vol. i. p. 404.

† Sir John Wilkie's sister, Agnes, married James Carmichael, Earl of Hyndford, who succeeded his father in 1611, Doug. *Peer.* i. 755.

**Foulden Bastle**—the ancient residence of the Ramsays—no longer exists. Its site is pointed out by a farm-house which bears its name. The church was formerly a rectory, rated in the ancient Taxatio at twenty-four merks, and the advowson appears to have been always vested in the proprietor of the lands. Its rector, Robert de Ramsay, swore fealty to Edward I. at Berwick, 24th September, 1296., and was forthwith reinstated in his living. In 1423-4, Roger Golin, parson here, had a dispute with the Prioress of St. Bathans, regarding the tithes of certain lands adjoining to his rectory, the settlement of which was left to William Drax, prior of Coldingham, who decided in favour of the latter. These lands were probably those now called Nunlands \*. The present clergyman is the Rev. Alexander Christison. The advowson of the church belongs to John Wilkie, Esq. The other proprietors of land in the parish, are Miss Wood of Nunlands, and George Baillie, Esq. of Mellerstain.

In the churchyard is a tombstone, which marks the dust of the last of the Ramsays of Foulden, whom we have more than once had occasion to notice, and which from the quaintness of its style, seems to be deserving of insertion.

\* Chartul. Arbroath. Rymer, vol. ii. p. 724. Chart. Cold. 42. The lands of Nunlands, as appears from the Session Records of Foulden parish, were, in 1682, the property of Mr. John Ramsay. In 1700 Mr. Alexander Rule was Laird of Nunlands. He seems to have married the inheritrix, as his wife's name was Margaret Ramsay. John Rule was Laird in 1731.



HIS · AGE · 74	HEIR · LYETH · ANE · HONORABIL · MAN · GEORG ·	RAMSAY · IN · FULDEN ·
	FYFE · FOSTERING · PEACE · ME · BRED	
	FROM · THENCE · THE · MERCE · ME · CALD ·	
	THE · MERCE · TO · MARSIS · LAVIS · LED	
	TO · BYDE · HIS · BATTELLIS · BALD ·	
	VERIED · VITH · VARES · AND · SORE · OPPREST	
	DEATH · GAVÈ · TO · MARS · THE · FOYL ·	
	AND · NOV · I · HAVE · MORE · QVYET · REST	
	THAN · IN · MY · NATIVE · SOYL · [FOUR	
	FYFE · MERCE · MARS · MORT · THESE · FATAL ·	
AL · HAIL · MY · DAYS · HES · DRIVEN · OVR ·		
HASTEL · WHO · DEPARTED · 4 · JAN · 1692 · AND · OF		

The village of Foulden appears to have been two centuries byegone of much greater extent than at present, though at no period did it merit the appellation of “a large town” bestowed on it by Cambden in his *Brittannia*. The extent of the population of the parish has decreased within the last hundred years; in 1755, it was 465, and, according to a census taken by the present incumbent in July 1835, it was reduced to 395 \*.

The parish of Foulden is bounded on the west by the lands belonging to the ancient manor of

\* It may not be improper to notice an ancient usage practised in this parish, to which, so far as we are aware, it is peculiar. A night or two after a marriage has taken place, the young folks of the neighbourhood provide themselves with a *creel*, which they load with stones, and carry to the house of the bride and bridegroom. A certain payment is demanded; in event of a refusal, the bridegroom is forcibly dragged from the house, the onerous *creel* secured with cords to his back, and so laden, he is compelled to perambulate in front of his dwelling, till his bride is forced publicly to evince her attachment to him, by cutting through the cords!

## EDINGTON,

Which appears to have derived its name from a Saxon, called Edwin, or Edin, during the period of the Heptarchy, or at any rate anterior to the Conquest. It was for several centuries held of the Priory by the family of Edington, who frequently occur as witnesses to its charters. Aldanus de Edington and his son Adam successively attested charters granted to it by Waltheve and Patrick Earls of Dunbar, between the years 1166 and 1289. Robert de Edington also is among the witnesses to the charter of Roger, bishop of St. Andrews, in 1193, "*quod ecclesia de Coldingham, libera sit a Can et Cuneved,*" &c. \* On 27th July, 1479, Jacobus de Edington, with John Ellem of Butterdean, Gavin Home of Manderston, and other proprietors in the east of Berwickshire, were summoned to appear before the Parliament, to answer to the charge of treason in having held out the castle of Dunbar against the King, and for having cruelly put to death some of his subjects (*pro crudeli homicidio ac interfectione diversorum nostrorum fidelium legiorum et servitorum*) †.

‡ The barony of Edington was, by charter of date 2d May, 1593-4, granted to Lord George Ramsay of Dalhousie. It was afterwards confirmed to his son, 10th December, 1631 ‡. During the latter part of the century, it belonged to the family of Lauder. In April 1700, Sir Robert Lauder of Edington, sullied his name by murdering David Spence of West Mains, a small property at Chirnside, now incorporated with the

\* Charters in Appendix to North Durham, and Chartulary of Coldingham.

† Acts of the Scot. Parliament, vol. ii. p. 125.

‡ Mag. Sigil. L. lvii. No. 86.

estate of Ninewells \*. It was then purchased by James Hay, Esq., who, in 1745, was confined in Berwick jail for some time upon a suspicion of Jacobitism. The present proprietor is William Hay, Esq. of Drummelzier and Dunse Castle.

The Castle or Tower of Edington, stood about a hundred yards southward from the turnpike road leading from Berwick to Dunse. Its sole remains is a ruinous wall, which seems to have formed the south side of the building. It measures about ten feet in height, and fifty in breadth, and presents a series of broken arches and mouldering door-ways.

About two miles farther west, stands the village of

\* It appears that Sir Robert and Laird Spence had previously been upon the most familiar terms of intimacy. The latter, on his marriage had, by the persuasion of his wife, however, ceased to associate as formerly with the knight, who, from all accounts, seems to have been a very dissipated and profligate character. Shortly after the marriage, Lauder had gone as usual to pay a visit to his *quondam* boon-companion, but was denied admittance. Irritated at this, he immediately retired to a public-house in the village of Chirside, and despatched a messenger, who was to inform Spence, that a person wished to see him there on business. The latter suspecting no evil, forthwith attended, and after spending some time in explaining matters over the bottle, both parties prepared to depart, all grounds of differences being apparently removed. Scarcely had they crossed the threshold, however, when Lauder, pulling out a pistol from his pocket, shot the unfortunate Spence through the heart. The murderer hastened to Edington, and mounting his horse, rode furiously towards Berwick. His fate is somewhat uncertain. According to some accounts he threw himself over Berwick-bridge into the Tweed. The parish register merely tells us, "Lauder did not live long after this foalfe murder." There is a tradition, that the murder was perpetrated on Foulden-fair day; and that, as the wretched man rode through the crowd on his way to Berwick, he exclaimed, "that he had that day slain the prettiest man in all Berwickshire."

## CHIRNSIDE.

The manor was held of the Coldingham monks during the 12th and 13th centuries by the Earls of Dunbar. When Earl Patrick deserted the English interest, Edward III. granted a charter of the manors of Chirnside and Dunse, with the advowson of their churches, to his faithful soldier, Thomas de Bradestan, in reward for his services. The deed is dated at Perth, (apud villam, St. Johannis in Scotia) and was confirmed at Berwick, 5th October, 1336 \*. After the death, or rebellion of Bradestan, the *Kingslands* of Chirnside and Dunglass, which appear to have been for some time vested in the Crown, were granted, 20th June, 1451, to Sir Alexander Home, the first Lord High Chamberlain of Scotland. In 1489-90, Alexander, second Lord Home, had his lands of Chirnside and Manderston united to the barony of Home by charter, bearing date 4th January of that year†. A decree of the same Parliament which brought Lord Home to the scaffold in October, 1516, confiscated his estates. Chirnside, with some of his other lands and titles were, however, restored to his son George, in August, 1522, and confirmed to him by three successive Parliaments. In March, 1646, these lands were granted to John Home, uncle of James, Earl of Home; but now, with the estate of Whitehall, situated within the same parish, they are the property of Sir John Hall, Bart.

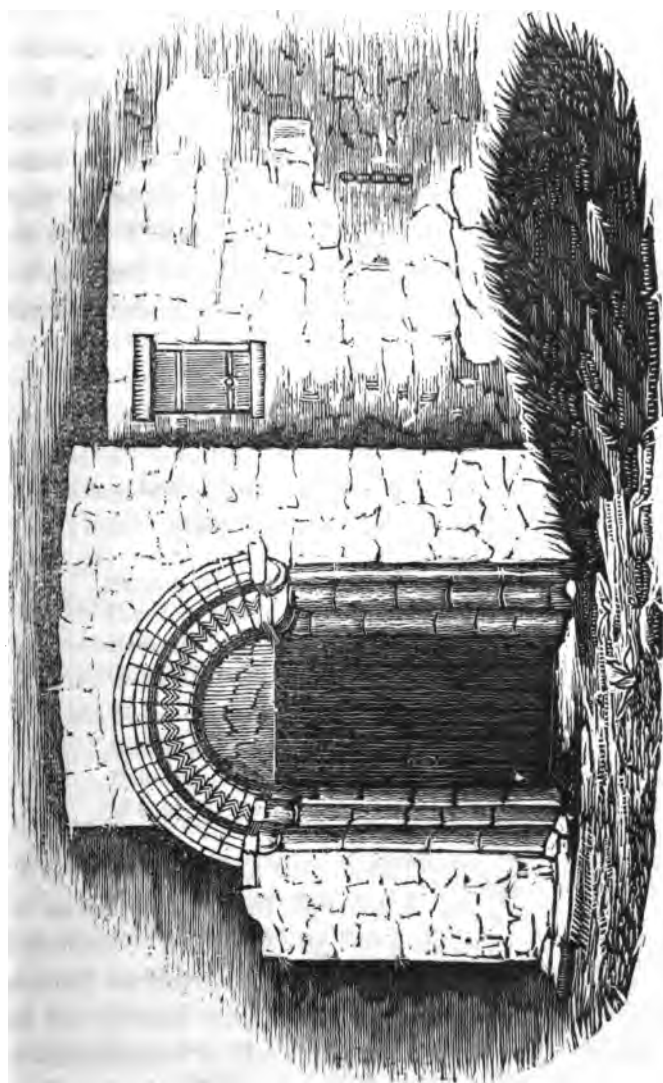
The church of Chirnside stands at the base of the fine sloping bank on which the village is stretched. It does not appear to have been at any period con-

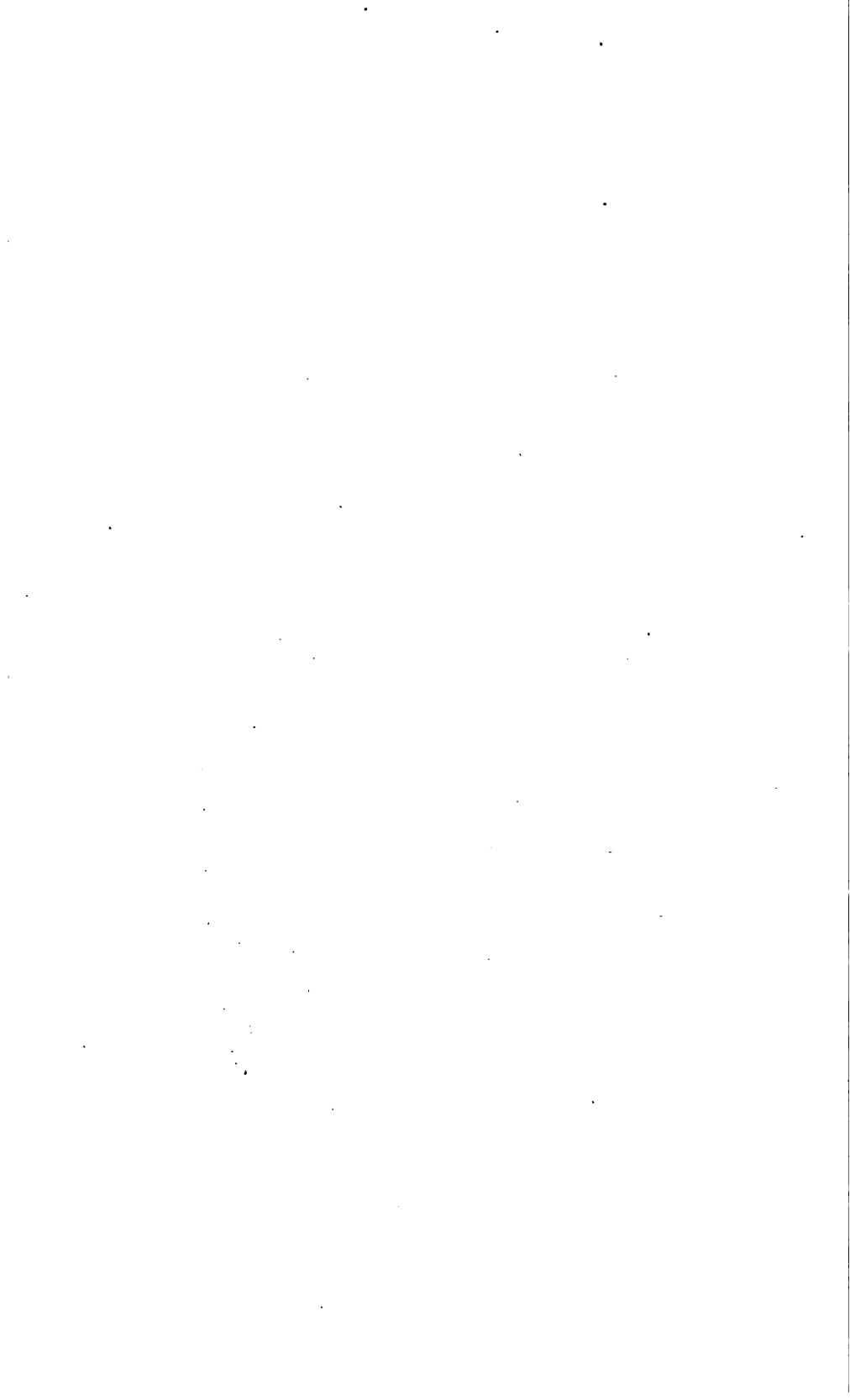
\* Rotul. Scot. vol. i. p. 380. Bradestan was to give the King yearly a sword for Chirnside, "reddendo per annum unum ensem, in festo Nativitatis Sti. Johannis."

† Douglas' Peerage, vol. i. p. 728.

nected with our Priory. The first of its clergy on record is Symon, *parsona* de Chirnesyde, who subscribed a charter of Patrick, Earl of Dunbar, between the years 1248 and 1289, "de restitutione wardæ maritagii heredam de Nesbyth." His successor, William de Blida (Blythe), appears on the list of Berwickshire clergy who swore fealty to Edward I. at Berwick, in August 1296. In 1334, Earl Patrick annexed the advowson and property of the church of Chirnside to his newly-founded collegiate church at Dunbar, and thus constituted it a collegiate prebend. This annexation was confirmed by Landells, bishop of St. Andrew's, between the years 1341 and 1385; and more recently by Henry, bishop of the same diocese, on the 23d October 1429. At the same time that Edward III. bestowed the manor of Chirnside upon Thomas de Bradestan, he appointed his own chaplain John, son of Roger Grey de Ruthyn, to be prebendary. He, however, recalled him from that office in 1348, and vested the advowson in Bradestan the new proprietor. In the ancient *taxatio* "*ecclesia de Chirnesyd*" is valued at fifty merks, and in Bagimont's roll "*rectoria de Chirnside*," is assessed at £4. Chirnside has been the seat of a Presbytery since the year 1581.

The church has obviously been erected at very different periods; the most ancient part of the edifice being the western door, represented with its plain, circular columns, and Saxon arch, ornamented with zig-zag moulding. At its side will be seen hanging a few links of an iron chain, which are probably the remains of that now obsolete instrument of discipline, called *the joughs*, formerly used in the Scottish churches. In its interior is a square tablet, imbedded in a more modern part of the wall, and bearing the date of the year 1572, on which are rudely carved the words,





“*Helpe The Pvr.*” Like many other Border churches, that of Chirnside had formerly a tower, for the protection of the villagers, erected near its western end, which has been removed within the recollection of a few of the aged inhabitants. In the church-yard is a stone, said to have been erected by the Rev. John Dysart of Coldingham, to the memory of the Rev. Henry Erskine, father of the celebrated Ralph and Ebenezer Erskine, the founders of the Secession Church, and for some time minister of this parish. It bears the following inscription :—

M. S.  
**M. Henrici Areskine**  
**Pastoris Chirnsidis**  
**Qui obiit 10 Augusti 1696**  
**Ætatis suæ 72.**

*Sanctus Areskinus, saxo qui conditur isto  
 Est lapis æterni vivus in Aede Dei.  
 Non astu lapis hic, technave volubilis ulla  
 Quippe fide, in Petra constabilitus erat.*

Under this stone, there lies a stone  
 Living with God above :  
 Built on a rock was such an one  
 Whom force nor fraud could move.

The worthy divine thus commemorated, belonged to the ancient family of Shielfield, in the west of Berwickshire. In 1649, he was appointed minister of Cornhill in Northumberland, but was ejected in 1662, and for several years exposed to many privations for his attachment to the cause of Presbytery. Soon after the Revolution he was appointed to succeed an episcopal divine, Mr. John Lautie, in the pastoral charge of the parish of Chirnside, which he continued to hold till his death, 10th August 1696.



On the north-bank of the Whitadder, at the southern extremity of this parish, stands the mansion-house of Ninewells, the property of a branch of the family of Hume. It is remarkable as having been the occasional residence of David Hume, the celebrated metaphysician and philosopher, who was second son of Joseph Hume, Esq. of Ninewells, and was born at Edinburgh, on the 26th of April 1711. His mother was daughter to Sir David Falconer, a Judge in the Court of Session, under the title of Lord Newton, and was for some years President of the College of Justice. In 1749, Hume retired to Ninewells, which was then the property of his brother, where he composed, what he himself considered to be the most perfect of his Works, "An Inquiry concerning the Principles of Morals," which was published in 1751. He died at Edinburgh on the 25th of August 1776 \*.

\* Besides his History of England, Hume wrote a "Treatise on Human Nature;" "Essays, Moral and Political;" "Political Discourses;" "Natural History of Religion;" and "Dialogues on Religion;" which last was published after his death.

# GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

## ON THE

# GEOLOGY OF BERWICKSHIRE,

WITH

*A more particular Description of the Structure of the  
District called Coldinghamshire.*

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BERWICKSHIRE, though neither a very large, nor to the general admirer of mere external nature, a very picturesque or very interesting county, is, nevertheless very far from being barren or unproductive in natural phenomena. This, since the institution of a Naturalists' Club in Berwickshire, has been sufficiently and abundantly evidenced by various interesting discoveries, and by many valuable accessions to the general stock of natural knowledge. But of all the natural phenomena which present themselves to the view of the student of nature, as connected with Berwickshire, perhaps the most curious, as well as interesting, are its geological phenomena—a subject of enquiry, as is well known, which has of late years been attracting very considerable attention, both from Scotch and English naturalists, and on which, during the last two years especially, a considerable deal of light has been thrown by the observations of several eminent geologists.

Among various valuable contributions on this subject may be mentioned, in a particular manner, an able and interesting paper by D. Milne, Esq., read at the

meeting of the British Association held at Edinburgh, in September, 1834: also some valuable observations published by Mr. Witham, connected with the geology of the county; and lastly, various accessions and additions to our knowledge on this subject, derived from the observations of two distinguished English geologists who, somewhat more than a year ago, examined personally a considerable portion of the district of which this work professes to give a history, and which observations we may have occasion more than once to allude to in the following sketch of the geology of Coldinghamshire.

The attention which has thus been drawn and directed to the geology of Berwickshire has not been uncalled for. For many years past, as is well known, it has been a problem of very difficult solution; opinions not only of a very different, but even opposite nature, having been stated, and even published regarding it by geologists of the very first name and authority. The difficulty, however, it ought to be mentioned, does not apply universally to the structure of the county: for with regard to two great formations or classes of its rocks, there can hardly be entertained by any one, however inexperienced, but one opinion. These two great formations or sets of rocks, are 1st, what used to be called "The Transition rocks," consisting of greywacke, and its usual accompaniment greywacke slate (or what are now probably more correctly described and considered as the oldest numbers of the secondary series); and 2d, rocks of the old red sandstone formation, resting apparently (at least in most places we have examined), immediately upon the above mentioned older rocks.

The former of these formations constitutes the higher and more barren part of the county; extending

throughout its whole length, in a direction from N. E. to S. W. i. e. from the neighbourhood of St. Abb's Head, to the valley of the Leader, on the opposite side of the county. Throughout the whole extent of this elevated tract (the Lammermuir range), the appearances presented are exceedingly similar. The greywacke, and greywacke slate, but especially the latter, are almost the only substances we meet with; very few interruptions from trap, or unstratified rocks occurring to derange the strata. When such interruptions, however, are met with, they are in very large masses; St. Abb's Head, Cockburn Law and the Dirrington Laws, being instances of this, which we here mention, as being the most prominent and conspicuous.

The strata of the greywacke, or rather of the greywacke slate throughout this subalpine tract, may be described as varying very much both in their direction and in their dip or angle of inclination. Generally speaking, however, the former may be said to be from E. N. E. to W. S. W., while the latter, or angle of inclination, is almost always a very high one. Not unfrequently, indeed, the strata are perfectly vertical; although in this respect as well as in the former, there are often very sudden changes, and, in consequence, very singular and peculiar appearances. These might be mentioned in a circumstantial and detailed manner, but it would be at the risk of swelling this sketch to a most unreasonable size.

The second pretty obvious and well defined formation which we meet with in Berwickshire, generally resting upon the greywacke, although at other times apparently passing into it, is that of the old red sandstone. This formation may be described as forming a narrow belt on both sides of this great elevated tract of grey.

wacke, or Transition rocks, occurring in greatest abundance in the south-western part of the county, i. e. in the neighbourhood of Merton, Dryburgh, &c.

The proofs of its being the old red sandstone are derived, partly from its mineralogical characters, and partly from its included organic remains, in which, however, as indeed we would expect, it is remarkably deficient\*.

With regard to these two classes of rocks, as already said, there can be but little difference of opinion; in so far, at least, as the place which they occupy in the present generally admitted system of geology, and their comparative ages or epochs of formation, are concerned. The difficulty is rather in deciding upon, and assigning to their proper place and æra, a third great set of rocks, which we meet with abundantly distributed in the lower and more fertile part of the district; and which, in very many situations at least (for it is not uniformly so), we observe either resting upon, or apparently passing into the old red sandstone. This formation covers almost the whole of what is commonly called "the Merse," and is so very indistinctly marked, is a formation which possesses so anomalous, or rather so amphibious a character, that geologists of the very first eminence, as already said, have expressed very different opinions regarding it. By some, for instance, among whom are no less names than Messrs. Smith and Greenough, it has been regarded and described as a portion of the new red sandstone formation. By others again, it has been considered as a continuation of the old red sandstone for-

\* One or two of the more interesting localities may be mentioned where this formation presents itself—as for instance in the parish of Coldbrandspath—at Eyemouth—in the bed of the Dye near Longformacus—near Ordweel in the parish of Bunkle, &c.

mation ; while by a third class of observers (among whom are the eminent geologists alluded to at the outset of these observations), it is held to be the lowest and consequently oldest portion of the coal formation. This last opinion the writer of these remarks was slow in giving his assent to : but he now confesses, in spite of early prepossessions and prejudices, that it is the only satisfactory opinion that can be adopted ; although, in arriving at such an acknowledgment, it must also be admitted that we have in a great measure to set aside many proofs or evidences, to which at one time more weight was attached than in the present more advanced state of the science. The proofs alluded to, are those derived from the mineralogical characters of the rocks in question, which would, without doubt, prove them to belong to the new red sandstone formation ; while, if we regard their position, their relative situation, and especially their included organic remains, we must pronounce them to belong to an older and more distant æra than is universally assigned to the new red sandstone. So that in endeavouring to resolve this problem, regarding the true nature of the geology of Berwickshire, it may be said that there is but a choice of difficulties—either to discard in a great measure the mineralogical characters by which the new red sandstone was formerly distinguished, and by so doing to designate the formation which occurs in Berwickshire the lowest portion of the coal measures ; or to keep by the older and more usual mode of discriminating and distinguishing rocks, and, by following such a mode, to place a series of rocks confessedly and universally considered of recent formation, underneath a series universally admitted to be of a much older date—a conclusion which would evidently throw the whole

science into confusion, and divest it at once of all accuracy, consistency and precision. The principal rocks which constitute the formation now alluded to, are thick beds or strata of sandstone (variously coloured), beds of shale, pretty thick beds of indurated marl, occasional beds of very coarse limestone, and in various places, seams of red and white fibrous gypsum. Now, by following the older mode of discriminating rocks, we could hardly fail to come to the conclusion, that when such a series of rocks are met with, as constituting one distinct and connected formation, that formation is undoubtedly to be considered as the new red sandstone formation. The situation of the new red sandstone, however, is always *above* the coal; whereas it is now discovered that the rocks in the lower part of Berwickshire lie *underneath* it, shewing them to be older than even the adjoining coal fields of North Durham and Northumberland, underneath which they appear to dip; and therefore we are bound to come to the conclusion, that as they are evidently not the old red sandstone, so neither can they be considered as the new—but the oldest, the lowest, the first deposited portion of the coal formation. As tending to confirm this opinion, it may be mentioned, that coal has actually been wrought, and even to some extent in several parts of the county \*, and that the organic remains, especially the vegetable impressions, found in the rocks composing the lower part of the county, are, almost universally, such as characterize the undoubted coal measures in other districts.

The remarks now offered, will be perceived to be of a very general nature—perhaps too much so, when it is considered that the work in which they appear undertakes to describe only a limited and particular dis-

\* In the parish of Coldbrandspath—and in that of Mordington.

trict. When it is considered, however, how large a portion of the county is included in this district, and when it is stated, moreover, that it is in it that the three great formations already noticed, are both most clearly, and most strikingly displayed to view, the above observations, it is hoped, will not be considered either much misplaced, or altogether destitute of interest. Confining our attention therefore, in our remaining observations, to the district more particularly under consideration, we shall endeavour to point out the way and manner in which the several classes of rocks already mentioned succeed each other, and what are some of the more peculiar and striking geological appearances we are called on to observe—and, in prosecuting this design, we shall begin as from a centre with the modern parish of Coldingham, by far the greater portion of which consists of greywacke and greywacke slate, forming in various places eminences of very considerable height, and presenting, along the coast, some of the loftiest and most magnificent cliffs in the island. The stratification of this rock is every where distinct; though, as already said, there are very great irregularities, both in the dip and in the direction of its strata. This is more especially observable in that magnificent sea wall stretching from St. Abb's Head, to the shores of the parish of Coldbrandspath, along which the appearances are always interesting, though frequently in no small degree most difficult and perplexing.

This great central mass of greywacke we find extending, without interruption, to nearly the middle of this latter parish, with nearly the same general characters as in the portion of country already described; and there we perceive it covered with rocks of the old red sandstone. In tracing this change along the coast,



where both the succession and the characters of the different formations are most distinctly exhibited, we first meet with this sandstone on the farm of Redheugh, in the old parish of Aldcambus. But it is at the Siccar point \*, a mile or two farther towards the west, where the junction of the two formations is most striking and interesting. There the strata of the greywacke are perfectly vertical; and, superimposed upon them, nearly horizontally, we find the old red sandstone. No where in Scotland is there to be seen a more beautiful, or a more strikingly unconformable junction, or one which more clearly testifies the very different and distinct ages of the two formations. In various other situations in the parish of Coldbrandspath, we meet with similar junctions; and in all of them the appearances are very much alike: i. e. the sandstone at its immediate contact with the greywacke, is a coarse conglomerate or breccia formed of fragments of the older rocks. The angle of inclination is a small one,  $28^{\circ}$  towards the north, while the direction of the strata of the greywacke is from E. N. E. to W. S. W.

About three miles farther to the west of the Siccar point, this formation of old red sandstone appears to cease near the little bay and harbour of the Cove, where (in this western direction from Coldingham), we first meet with that undefined set of rocks formerly mentioned, as composing the greater part of the Merse and lowlands of Berwickshire, and regarding the true

\* This being one of the most interesting geological scenes in Scotland, the reader is referred for a particular description of the phenomena there presented to the Works of Professor Playfair, vol. iv. p. 79, 81. 8vo., Edin., 1822.; Paper by Sir James Hall, Bart., read to the Royal Society, Feb. 12th, 1812.; New Statistical Account of Scotland, parishes of Coldbrandspath, Eyemouth, &c.

designation and æra of which, so many different opinions have been entertained. It was the good fortune and privilege of the writer of these observations to accompany, for several days, along the interesting shores now described, two naturalists of the very first name and authority in this particular department of natural science; and when he mentions that these two individuals were Professor Sedgwick and Mr. Murchison, and states, at the same time, their opinion of the set of rocks now alluded to, it will, we think, go far to satisfy most geologists regarding their real age and character. The first impression of these distinguished individuals, on an inspection of this part of the coast, was, that the rocks composing it belonged to the new red sandstone formation. Again and again, did they testify to the exact resemblance between these rocks and undoubted districts in England and elsewhere composed of the new red sandstone: and it was not till after very accurate observation that they at length came to the conclusion, that this idea must be given up, and that we must consider the rocks in question, as a very ancient portion of the coal formation. Later observations regarding the relative position of these rocks, and especially regarding the vegetable impressions and other organic remains discovered in them, have still farther confirmed this opinion: and if we trace them a little farther westward, we find that in consistency with the present acknowledged principles of geology, they cannot be considered the new red sandstone formation, but must be referred to a much older æra. Beyond the parish of Coldbrandspath, to the west, the distinct and true members of the coal formation begin clearly to display themselves; i. e. in addition to the sandstone, we now have limestone, bituminous shale, clay, ironstone, &c. and these at Thornton Loch, on

the shores of the parish of Innerwick, we perceive passing under the mountain limestone, universally admitted to be older than the new red sandstone, and most correctly succeeding the rocks now alluded to, if we consider them as forming a part of the coal formation. We have thus, then, given a very general sketch or outline of the geology of one half, viz. : the western half of the district of Coldinghamshire, and in recapitulating what has been said, the three great formations we have noticed, and partially described, are, 1. Greywacke. 2. Resting upon it, the old red sandstone ; and 3. Resting upon the old red sandstone the lowest portion of the coal formation passing under the mountain limestone at Thornton Loch, and that again succeeded by the workable coal field of East Lothian, &c.

We now, therefore proceed, in as general and brief a manner, to notice the geology of the other portion of the district eastward and southward of Coldingham, from which, as from a centre, we originally proposed to set out. And here also, the same general succession of formations may be traced, though with considerable interruptions, especially for some miles along the coast, by trap rocks. These commence at St. Abb's Head, which is itself a great mass of trap, and extend along a stripe of coast apparently only a mile or two broad, to the mouth of the Eye. The principal and most important of these unstratified rocks composing St. Abb's Head, are felspar, porphyry, amygdaloid, and traptuffa. The last, however, is perhaps the most abundant, both at "the Head" and along the rest of the unstratified portion of the coast, forming in many places very fine cliffs, and giving occasion to much striking and picturesque scenery.

On the eastern side of Coldingham, the first, and

indeed, the only place in this part of the district where we meet with the old red sandstone, is at Eye-mouth. It forms the projecting point named "the Fort," and occurs in very inconsiderable quantity. It rests immediately on the trap rocks, principally the trap-tuffa, and, like the sandstone in various parts of the parish of Coldbrandspath already described, is a coarse conglomerate formed of fragments of the older rocks, firmly cemented together. The stratification of these rocks, which is very rude and indistinct, is nearly horizontal. It is found to be an excellent stone for buildings exposed to sea water, and has been quarried for that purpose to a considerable extent.

The river Eye may be said to be the boundary of the trap rocks; immediately on crossing which, we find ourselves once more, for a mile or two, on a somewhat elevated tract of greywacke, and greywacke slate, possessing nearly the same general appearance and characters as those above mentioned in another part of the district. The greater part of the parish of Ayton appears to be composed of these rocks, which are visible indeed in the bed of the Eye, not only in this particular neighbourhood, but throughout nearly its whole extent. It is on the coast, however, that the stratification of these rocks is best seen, and many singular and peculiar appearances are occasionally presented; the contortions, dislocations, and other irregularities in the strata, being about as frequent as on the other side of St. Abb's Head, and nearly as perplexing. The greywacke continues along the coast, and for some miles inland, till we reach the fishing village of Burnmouth, where it suddenly ceases—and we are now called upon once more to contemplate that peculiar and indistinctly marked formation, which we have above alluded to, and which, in the

situations already described on the other side of Coldingham, we have attempted to shew, is an older portion of the coal formation. In the present situation, however, there is this difference from what was observed in the former, viz.: that the intermediate formation, or connecting link of the old red sandstone, is here wanting, and that it succeeds immediately to the greywacke. Another remarkable difference is, that in the parish of Coldbrandspath—the corresponding locality on the other side of Coldingham—the sandstone, &c. are stratified nearly horizontally, whereas the strata here are not merely vertical, but actually turned over on their own edges. This appearance is distinctly visible at high water mark, at the foot of the ravine near the village of Burnmouth, and it is an appearance so striking, that it not only naturally, but almost necessarily leads us to look for some great disturbing cause, some great unstratified mass in the immediate neighbourhood, which has, in all probability, produced not only the unusual elevation of the greywacke at this particular place, but also the unusual position and inclination of the sandstone resting upon it—and accordingly we do find, very closely adjoining, the great mass of Lamberton Hill, or Moor, composed entirely of trap rocks, and rising both suddenly from the sea, and to a considerable elevation above its level. This elevated mass of unstratified rock is included almost entirely in the parish of Mordington. Generally speaking, the hill is covered with verdure, and therefore very few opportunities present themselves of ascertaining its real structure and composition. Apparently, however, porphyry and an imperfectly formed granite are among its most important constituent parts—the structure of the hill being to all appearance very similar to that of Cockburn Law in another

part of the county. This great unstratified mass continues from the situation last noticed, to the boundaries of the liberties of Berwick. Between it and the sea, however, there is a stripe, a sort of table land, gradually increasing in breadth, as we approach to the town of Berwick, and this is composed of the stratified rocks last alluded to, and to which we again return after these general remarks on Lamberton Moor. Here the stratification and the general character of the rocks are pretty much the same as formerly noticed in the parish of Coldbrandspath, with this exception, however, that here pretty thick seams of red fibrous gypsum are met with, which in the other situation are wanting. As we leave Burnmouth towards Berwick, the strata become less inclined, and soon almost horizontal, forming sea cliffs of very considerable height. Gradually, too, as we leave the greywacke and approach Berwick, the character of the formation becomes more distinct. Limestone, clay, ironstone and shale are met with, and even then, seams of coal (which formerly were wrought), crop out at high water mark near Marshal Meadows. The same rocks continue till we approach within a mile or so, of the mouth of the Tweed, and there, as at Thornton Loch formerly mentioned, and about the same distance too from Coldingham as that place is, we find them passing under the encrinite or mountain limestone, which again, as in the former instance, is succeeded by the coal-field of North Durham and Northumberland, on the opposite side of the Tweed. Thus in tracing the geology of the coast of Berwickshire, among many perplexing appearances, the following general arrangement becomes observable, 1. A great elevated tract of greywacke, and greywacke slate, forming the central part of the district; and 2.

at nearly equal distances, on either side of this, the two successive formations of the old red sandstone and the coal. We find also, in one part of the district, a very considerable mass, or rather masses of trap rocks, and uniformly also in their neighbourhood we find a very great disturbance and irregularity in the previously existing strata. Many other very interesting and curious appearances might be described, but such details would far exceed our present limits. For the same reason, also, we have forborne every thing like theory or speculation, contenting ourselves with as brief and simple a statement of facts as possible. What has been said may serve as a kind of guide to those who would wish more particularly to examine the geology of Berwickshire—and to those who have not that opportunity, it may serve to give some general idea of the interesting and peculiar structure which in many places it exhibits.

## BOTANY.

THE excellent Flora of Berwick-upon-Tweed by Dr. Johnston, and the published transactions of the Berwickshire Naturalist's Club, supersede the necessity of our devoting much space to the Botany of our district. To render our work as complete as possible, however, a list of the rarer species compiled from the above sources, or from our own personal research, is subjoined.

### 1. PHENOGRAMIC SPECIES.

*Chara flexilis.* *Smooth Chara.* Coldingham Lough. Dr. Johnston.

*Circæa lutetiana.* *Enchanter's Night-shade.* Pease-dean; Ravine above Burnmouth; Banks of the Eye, Ale and Whitadder.

*Veronica scutellata.* *Marsh Speedwell.* Near Mains in Chirnside parish. Pond at Littledean. Mr. Henderson, surgeon, Chirnside.

*Veronica filiformis.* *Thread-like Speedwell.* Shrubbery at Whiterig farm-house, parish of Ayton, where it was discovered a few years ago, by Dr. Johnston. It had not previously been observed in Britain, except near Henley in Sussex, by Mr. Borrer.

*Veronica montana.* *Mountain Speedwell.* Pease-dean. It is also abundant in Dunglass-dean, where it was first found by Dr. Parsons, professor of anatomy at Oxford, at the close of last century.

*Melica uniflora.* *Wood Melic Grass.* Pease-dean.

*Potamogeton pusillum, heterophyllum and pectinatum.* *Pond-weeds.* Coldingham Lough.



*Myosotis repens.* *Creeping Scorpion Grass.* Pease-dean.

*Sagina apetala.* *Annual Pearlwort.* Banks of the Ale, near Lint-hill farm-house. (*Rare*).

*Radiola millegrana.* *All-seed.* On the farm of Dulaw. (*Rare*). Mr. James C. Belaney.

*Lithospermum maritimum.* *Sea gromwell.* Sea shore, at the embouchure of the Pease-burn.

*Campanula latifolia.* *Throatwort.* Woods above the Pease-bridge.

*Convolvulus arvensis.* *Small Bindweed.* Ayton road, seven miles from Berwick.

*Borago officinalis.* *Common Borage.* Fields at Halidoun. About Lamberton farm-house, Mordington village. Covey-heugh.

*Viola lutea.* *Yellow Violet.* "About two miles south of Fast Castle," Lightfoot. Banks immediately above Fast Castle, and near the British camp at Earnsheugh.

*Viola hirta.* *Hairy Violet.* Ravine above Burnmouth. Banks of the Ale.

*Viola odorata.* *Sweet Violet.* Banks of the Eye and Ale, abundant near their confluence.

*Sambucus ebulus.* *Dwarf Elder.* Near Coldingham.

*Drosera anglica.* *Great Sundew.* In 1828, the author met with a few specimens of this somewhat rare plant, growing with *D. rotundifolia*, between Renton Bell and the old post-road, leading to Edinburgh, where he has since repeatedly sought for it in vain.

*Glaux maritima.* *Sea Milkwort.* Side of the Eye, near its mouth. Mr. Duncan, surgeon, Eyemouth.

*Cynoglossum officinale.* *Hound's-Tongue.* Between Reston and Covey-heugh.

*Lysimachia nemorum.* *Wood Loose-strife.* Renton and Houndwood woods, plentiful.

*Anagallis arvensis*. *Scarlet Pimpernel*. Very abundant in the field between Dulaw-dean and the farm-house.

*Hyoscyamus niger*. *Henbane*. Near Eyemouth, banks of the Eye, a little below Reston; sea coast at Fairnyside. Mr. Colville, surgeon, Ayton.

*Erythraea centaureum*. *Common Centaury*. Sea banks at Lamberton, and occasionally met with on the cliffs further west. Banks of *Bite-about-burn*, above Edington mill. Mr. Henderson, surgeon, Chirnside.

*Samolus Valerandi*. *Brookweed*. Wet rocks on the sea coast, near Gunsgreen.

*Ribes grossularia*. *Goose-berry*. Dulaw-dean.

*Salsola Kali*. *Prickly Saltwort*. Lumsdean and Coldingham shores.

*Gentiana Amarella*. *Autumnal Gentian*. Sea banks below Lamberton Shiels.

*Gentiana campestris*. *Field Gentian*. Occasionally found between Burnmouth and Fast Castle.

*Ligusticum Scotticum*. *Scottish Lovage*. Shore at Lamberton Shiels, and at Eyemouth; on rocks between Lumsdean and Redheugh.

*Allium schoenoprasum*. *Chive Garlic*. "By Fast Castle," Dr. Parsons. It has not since been observed in Berwickshire.

*Peplus portula*. *Water Purslane*. Pease-dean. Head of Lemanton-dean. Ditch between Muirmontrig and Stoneshiel. Dr. Hood.

*Sanicula Europaea*. *Wood Sanicle*. In a plantation at Silverwells, and at Houndwood. Edmund's Dean.

*Hydrocotyle vulgaris*. *White-rot*. Marshy spots in Houndwood, and on Coldingham moor.

*Scilla verna*. *Vernal Squill*. Sea banks at Guns-green, where it was for the first time observed by the Rev. A. Baird of Coldbrandspath, as a native of the east coast of Scotland.

*Rumex sanguineus.* *Bloody-veined Dock.* Woods at Netherbyres. Whitehall plantations.

*Alisma ranunculoides.* *Lesser Water Plantain.* Ditch at the foot of St. Abb's Head.

*Epilobium angustifolium.* *French Willow.* Dean south of Fast Castle; ravine above Ross. Banks of the Whitadder, a little below Edington Mill.

*Daphne laureola.* *Spurge-laurel.* Banks of the Whitadder at Whitehall. Banks of the Eye, above Netherbyres, apparently quite wild.

*Pyrola rotundifolia.* *Round-leaved Winter-green.* Houndwood and banks of the Ale.

*Pyrola minor.* Houndwood and Rentonwood.

*Pyrola media.* Same stations as the last, and in Lumsdean-dean.

*Dianthus deltoides.* *Maiden Pink.* At St. Helen's chapel, and in Lumsden-dean. Banks of the Ale near Linthill farm-house. (Rare in our district, but very common in the western parts of Berwickshire.)

*Arenaria verna.* *Vernal Sandwort.* On St. Abb's Head plentiful, and in Dulaw-dean.

*Sedum telephium.* *Orpine.* Borders of fields near the sea, a mile north from Eyemouth, sparingly.

*Sedum villosum.* *Hairy Stone-Crop.* Marshy ground at Laverock-law, Coldingham moor.

*Spergula subulata.* *Awl-shaped Spurry.* Coldingham moor. Quarry at Catch-a-penny. Banks of the Ale, near Millbank.

*Cerastium tetrandrum.* *Four-cleft Mouse-ear Chickweed.* Coldingham sands.

*Lythrum salicaria.* *Purple Loose-strife.* Marshy ground by the sea-side, below Lamberton. Houndwood.

*Prunus Padus.* *Bird Cherry.* Woods at Houndwood and Renton. Dulaw-dean.

*Prunus Cerasus. Wild Cherry.* Near Flemington. Banks of the Eye at Ayton Bridge.

*Rosa dumetorum. Thicket Rose.* Below Lamberton Shiels. In Lumsden-dean.

*Tormentilla reptans. Trailing Tormentil.* Heathy ground, a mile west from Coldingham. Lamberton moor, near the British camp at Habchester.

*Geum urbanum. Common Avens.* The variety of this species which Erhart has considered distinct, and named *G. intermedium*, grows at hedge sides about Eyemouth, and in the dean below Dulaw.

*Comarum palustre. Marsh Cinque-foil.* Dulaw-dean and wood at Harelawside.

*Pyrus aucuparia. Roan-tree.* Houndwood.

*Glaucium luteum. Yellow Horned Poppy.* Sandy sea coast at Coldingham. Shore between Dunglass-dean, and the mouth of the Pease-burn. Lumsdean-shore.

*Nuphar lutea. Yellow Water Lily.* Coldingham Loch, abundant.

*Thalectrum majus. Great Meadow-rue.* Banks of the Eye at Netherbyres. Banks of the Ale, below Ale-mill.

*Thalictrum flavum. Common Meadow-rue.* Woods at Netherbyres.

*Trollius europæus. Globe-flower.* Marshy field near Edington Hill. Lamberton moor. Plantation near Billy-mill. Coldingham moor.

*Mentha piperita. Peppermint.* The variety *a* of Smith, grows by the sides of the rivulet, below Lamberton Shiels, besides which, there is only one other station in Scotland, where it has been ascertained to grow wild.

*Mentha rubra. Red Mint.* Sides of the Eye, near Coveyheugh.

*Glechoma hederacea.* *Ground Ivy.* Roadside between Ayton and Eyemouth, near the entrance to Ayton House. Roadside about Chirnside.

*Betonica officinalis.* *Wood Betony.* Houndwood.

*Stachys arvensis.* *Corn Woundwort.* Below Lamberton, and in Dalaw-dean. Banks of the Eye and Ale.

*Stachys ambigua.* In Edmunds' dean among whins, sparingly.

*Melampyrum pratense.* *Common Cow-wheat.* Abundant in the woods between Houndwood and the Pease bridge.

*Digitalis purpurea.* *Foxglove.* Abundant by the roadside about Houndwood, and Renton. Side of Coldingham Loch; in Lumsden-dean, and on the banks of the Eye, Ale, and Whitadder.

*Scrophularia nodosa.* *Figwort.* Houndwood and Renton woods, and in most of our deans.

*Crambe maritima.* *Sea Kale.* "On the shore by Fast Castle in Berwickshire." Dr. Parsons. It formerly grew so plentifully on the shore in that neighbourhood, that the farmer of Lumsdean, Mr. Anderson, used to transplant it into his garden for culinary purposes. In 1880, I observed a few plants of it growing on Lumsdean shore.

*Cardamine hirsuta.* *Hairy Ladies' Smock.* Near St. Abb's Head.

*Cardamine amara.* Banks of the Eye at Netherbyres. Pease and Dunglass deans.

*Erysimum Alliaria.* *Garlic Mustard.* Roadside between Linthill house and Eyemouth-mill. Dulaw and Pease-deans. Banks of the Whitadder at Whitehall.

*Arabis Thaliana.* *Common Wall-cress.* In the ravine above Burnmouth. Ruins of the old bridge, across the

Eye at Ayton Path. Cliffs at the mouth of Dulaw-dean.

*Geranium sylvaticum.* *Wood Crane's-Bill.* Road-sides about Renton and Houndwood.

*Geranium lucidum.* *Shining Crane's-Bill.* Rocky Banks of the Eye, opposite Netherbyres. Roadside between Reston and Coveyheugh.

*Malva moschata.* *Musk Mallow.* Banks of the Whitadder at Edrington and Whitehall.

*Fumaria claviculata.* *Climbing Fumetory.* Edmund's-dean and Pease-bridge-dean.

*Vicia sylvatica.* *Wood Vetch.* Along the whole range of our sea-banks, but in the greatest profusion below Lamberton Shiels, and by the steep sides of the Whitadder.

*Vicia lathyroides.* On the precipitous and dry rocky banks of the Ale. Sea banks near Earnsheugh camp.

*Astragalus glycyphyllos.* *Wild Liquorice.* Ravine above Burnmouth, and according to Mr. Henderson, surgeon, Chirnside, on the banks of the Whitadder near Whitehall.

*Astragalus hypoglottis.* *Purple Milk-vetch.* Sea banks below Redheugh and Lamberton Shiels.

*Lotus decumbens.* Between Coldingham Loch and the sea.

*Medicago sativa.* *Lucerne.* "Cornfield near Guns-green-hill," Rev. A. Baird. "On the haugh above Whitehall," Mr. Henderson.

*Trifolium fragiarastrum.* *Strawberry Trefoil.* Banks of the Whitadder near Edington Mill.

*Trifolium arvense.* Banks of the Eye opposite Netherbyres.

*Genista anglica.* *Petty Whin.* Coldingham and Lamberton moors, sparingly.

*Hypericum humifusum.* *Trailing St. John's Wort.*

Hilly pastures above Lamberton Shiels. Fields about Netherbyres, Ayton and St. Abb's Head.

*Hypericum hirsutum*. Sea banks at Lamberton Shiels. Pease-dean.

*Tragopogon major*. *Greater Goat's-beard*. This species of Goat's Beard was confounded with *T. pratense*, till two or three years ago, when the differences in its specific character attracted the attention of Dr. R. D. Thomson, son of the Rev. Mr. Thomson of Eccles, who having shown a specimen to Dr. Hooker of Glasgow, our plant was determined to be without a doubt the *T. major* of Jacquin's *Flora Austriaca* and of Smith in Rees' *Cyclopedia*.

*Lactuca virosa*. *Strong-scented Lettuce*. Ayton road near the six-mile-stone from Berwick.

*Leontodon palustre*. *Marsh Dandelion*. "In a small marshy plantation on the farm of Gunsgreen," Rev. A. Baird. In wet spots on Coldingham moor.

*Hieracium murorum*. *Wall Hawk-weed*. Precipitous cliffs of Dulaw-dean.

*Hieracium paludosum*. *Marsh Hawk-weed*. Marshy spots in Houndwood and Harelawside wood.

*Hieracium sabaudum*. *Shrubby Hawk-weed*. Sea banks between Marshall Meadows and Lamberton Shiels. Beggar-side and Lumsdean-deans.

*Hieracium prenanthoides*. Wood opposite Bank-house.

*Carlina vulgaris*. *Carlina Thistle*. Sea banks between Lamberton Shiels and Burnmouth, and near Earnsheugh camp.

*Eupatorium cannabinum*. *Hemp Agrimony*. Marshy spots below Lamberton Shiels, and in many of our wet deans near the sea.

*Artemisia absinthium*. *Common Wormwood*. About Burnmouth and Eyemouth.

*Gnaphalium dioicum*. *Mountain Cudweed*. Lamberton and Coldingham moors.

*Gnaphalium rectum*. *Upright Cudweed*. Same stations as the preceding.

*Tussilago petasiles*. *Butter-bur*. Sides of the Whitadder, abundant.

*Senecio viscosus*. *Stinking Groundsel*. In the woods above Netherbyres, and near Lumsdean, Renton, and other places within our district.

*Inula dysenterica*. *Flea-bane*. Marshy ground by the sea side near Lamberton old coal pit.

*Chrysanthemum segetum*. *Yellow Ox-eye*. Now only occasionally met with in our corn-fields, where it was once a very common weed.

*Pyrethrum parthenium*. *Common Feverfew*. "Old walls near Eyemouth," Rev. A. Baird.

*Pyrethrum maritimum*. *Sea Feverfew*. Rocky sea-cliffs between Burnmouth and Eyemouth, and a little southward from St. Abb's.

*Anthemis arvensis*. *Corn Chamomile*. It occurs naturalized at Chirnside bridge, where it was planted some years ago by the late Mr. Blackadder.

*Centaurea cyanus*. *Blue-bottle, or Blawort*. A plant now much less frequently met with in our corn fields than formerly. "As blue as a Blaver," observes Dr. Johnston, "was once a familiar comparison in the Merse, now intelligible to few."

*Orchis bifolia*. *Butterfly Orchis*. Below Lamberton Shiels and on Coldingham moor.

*Orchis conopsea*. *Aromatic Orchis*. Marshy spots on Edington, Lamberton and Coldingham moors.

*Listera ovata*. *Common Twayblade*. "Boggy ground at the four-mile stone on the Ayton road." Dr. Johnston; and in a marshy spot behind Houndwood Inn.



*Listera cordata*. "Buncle wood," Rev. A. Baird; and in Harelawside wood.

*Lestera nidus ovis*. Woods at Netherbyres.

*Epipactis palustris*. Marsh *Helleborine*. Lamberton and Coldingham moors.

*Euphorbia exigua*. *Dwarf Spurge*. Side of the road between Peelwalls and Bastle-ridge.

*Euphorbia esula*. Side of the Eye at East Reston, Mr. James Belaney, surgeon, Smallholm.

*Typha latifolia*. *Reed-mace, or Cat's-tail*. Near Auchencraw, Dr. Johnston.

*Carex pulicaris*. Lamberton and Coldingham moors.

*Carex vulpina*. Side of the Eye, between Coveyheugh and Reston.

*Carex paniculata*. Coldingham moor, and in Littledean plantations.

*Carex pendula*. Very abundant in wet spots near the old coal pit at Lamberton.

*Carex pilulifera*. Lamberton moor, and between Butterdean and Quixwood.

*Carex acuta*. Side of the Whitadder a little above Edrington Castle, and on Coldingham moor, near Lumsdean.

*Carex ampullacea*. Not unfrequent on all the moors of Berwickshire.

*Carex riparia*. North bank of the Whitadder opposite the village of Hutton, and of the Ale, near its confluence with the Eye.

*Littorella lacustris*. *Plantain Shore-weed*. Coldingham Loch.

*Myriophyllum spicatum*. *Spiked Water Milfoil*. Same station as the above, abundant.

*Arum maculatum*. *Wake Robin*. Outside of Ayton garden wall, and near Netherbyres. In both of these situations, however, it has probably conti-

nued to flourish an outcast from the neighbouring gardens.

*Poterium sanguisorba.* *Salad Burnet.* A few specimens of this plant were collected a year or two ago, by Mr. Mitchell, of Wooler, on a bank near the western extremity of Coldingham Loch, where it has since been repeatedly sought for in vain.

*Quercus sessiliflora.* This species of oak occurs in great abundance in the Pease-bridge-dean, and in Penmanshiel woods.

*Salix pentandra.* In Houndwood, and on Coldingham moor at Crosslaw.

*Salix decipiens.* Lemington dean and banks of the Whitadder at Edrington.

*Salix aurita.* Common upon our coast.

*Salix oleifolia.* In the boggy field, below the old Lamberton Toll.

*Rhodiola rosea.* *Rose-root.* This fine plant grows in the greatest luxuriance on the cliffs about Fast Castle, and in the romantic glen a little south from it. It has been also observed upon the rocks between Lamberton and Burnmouth, but not so abundantly as in the former locality.

*Mercurialis perennis.* *Perrenial Mercury.* In most of our shady deans, and by the sides of our rivulets.

*Juniperus communis.* *Common Juniper.* Occurs occasionally on our sea-banks.

## 2. CRYPTOGAMIC SPECIES.

### FERNS.

*Equisetum sylvaticum.* Houndwood, Renton and Penmanshiel woods.

*Equisetum hyemale.* Lamberton moor, abundantly.

*Polypodium dryopteris.* On the wooded banks of the Ale, above Ale-mill. Pease-bridge-dean.

*Aspidium aculeatum*. Both varieties of this species of fern occur plentifully in the Pease-dean.

*Aspidium dilatatum*. Same station as the above.

*Cystea fragilis*. Near Mains in Chirside parish, and in the caves below St. Abb's Head.

*Scolopendrium vulgare*. *Hart's-tongue*. This splendid fern is frequently met with in the ravines, and sea-caves at the western extremity of our district.

*Botrychium lunaria*. *Moonwort*. Coldingham moor above Lumsdean, and the heights near Warlaw camp.

*Asplenium trichomanes*. Banks of the Eye, Aie, and Whitadder, Dulaw and Pease-deans, and in the ravine above Burnmouth.

#### MOSSES.

*Anomodon viticulosus*. Banks of the Eye between Ayton-house and Netherbyres.

*Tortula convoluta*. On a gravelly bank on Lamberton moor by the road-side, abundant.

*Dicranum taxifolia*. Near Netherbyres.

*Weissia verticillata*. On wet rocks at Eyemouth and Coldingham shores.

*Sphagnum cuspidatum*. In peat pits on Coldingham moor abundant, but not in fruit.

#### LIVERWORTS.

*Jungermannia pubescens*. In Dulaw-dean.

*Jungermannia emarginata*. Wooded dean, behind Houndwood Inn.

#### LICHENS.

*Nephroma resupinata*. Penmanshiel wood.

*Borrera ciliaris*. Lamberton moor.

*Sphaeropheron coralloides*. Penmanshiel wood.

*Cenomyce digitata*. In the woods about Renton.

## MUSHROOM TRIBE.

*Peziza ochroleuca*. On decayed branches at Houndwood, plentiful.

*Phallus foetidus*. Woods at Netherbyres. Plantation by the side of the road between Prenderguest and Whiterig, abundant.

*Auricularia corticalis*. On dead branches of oak at Houndwood.

*Scleroderma cepa*. About Netherbyres, plentiful.

*Puccinia gracilis*. On the leaves of the wild raspberry in Dulaw-dean.

*Erineum fragineum*. Woods at the Pease-bridge.

## ALGÆ.\*

*Trentepohlia pulchella*. On *Hypnum riparium* in the rivulet of Lumsden-dean, in round dense tufts, about half an inch in height.

*Batrachospermum moniliforme*. In the peat-moss-holes of Coldingham moor, floating on the surface. (*Rare.*)

*Gomphonema geminatum*. Abundant in the rivulet of Lumsden-dean.

*Echinella lunulata*. Same station as the preceding.

\* The Algæ, above enumerated, are such as occur in fresh water. For a list of the marine plants belonging to this class found upon the coast of Berwickshire, the reader is referred to the second volume of the *Flora of Berwick-upon-Tweed*, and to the *Transactions of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club*.



## APPENDIX TO PART FIRST.

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### No. 1.

AS corroborative of the statement made at page 4th, respecting the relative size, and accommodation afforded by Coldingham during the fourteenth century, we have here inserted a translation of a writ issued by William, Earl of Douglas, the Justiciary on the south of Scotland. The original charter is preserved at Durham.

“Charter of William, Earl of Douglas, shewing, that the Itinerating Justiciary ought not to sit at Coldingham, except by favour.”

“Unto all to whose notice these letters shall come, William, Earl of Douglas, Lord of Liddesdale (Dns vallis de Lydel) and Justiciary on the south of the Forth (aquæ de Forth) greeting in the Lord: Seeing that according to the custom of our ancestors the justice ayres (iter justiciarie) of the sheriffdom of Berwick were wont to be held at Berwick, where at present they cannot be held, as that town is in the hands of the English, it is therefore necessary for it to sit elsewhere within the sheriffdom for the dispensation of justice. Hence it happens, that from the necessity aforesaid, we have selected the town of Coldingham for our accommodation *on account of the houses and hostleries which are there more abundant than elsewhere in the aforesaid sheriffdom* (propter domos et hospicia quæ ibi magis abundant quam alibi in vicecomitatu predicto) and for no other reason, wishing that our coming thither at present may in no wise infringe upon freedom, but that things may be in every respect the same as previous to our arrival. And this we declare by the tenor of these presents unto all whom it may concern. In testimony hereof we have made these letters patent, sealed with the seal of our office. Given at Coldingham on the twenty-third day of January, in the year of our Lord 1371.”

### No. 2.

The following is a copy of the Latin verses composed by Bernard de Lynton, whose talents and patriotism elevated him from the comparatively obscure situation of Parson in the church of Mordington to the office of Abbot in the monastery of Arbroath, and Chancellor of

Scotland. They are obviously imperfect, yet they are written in a style calculated to operate powerfully on the mind of the Scottish nobles during that turbulent age. Our extract is taken from Fordun's *Scoti-chronicon*, 2d volume, and 249 page.

Tunc summo mane celebrantur in ordine missæ  
 Rege movente suo dicenteque corde benigno  
 O Proceres et mi populi quibus insolet esse  
 Libertas magna, pro qua certamina multa  
 Passi sunt reges Scotiæ Domino morientes  
 Cernite nunc omnes quot nos patiendo labores  
 Annis pro certo jam decertavimus octo  
 Pro regni jure, pro libertatis honore!  
 Perdidimus fratres et amicos atque parentes;  
 Vestri cognati captivi sunt, et amici;  
 Nunc et prælati cum clero carcere clausi  
 Mater et ecclesia nulla manet ordine tuta.  
 Nobilitas terræ transivit sanguine guerræ:  
 Armati proceres, quos coram cernitis omnes,  
 Nos regnum gentem delere per impietatem  
 Jam decreverunt; nec nos subsistere credunt;  
 Curribus est et equis ipsorum gloria; nobis  
 Est nomen Domini spes et victoria belli.  
 Felix ista dies, natus Baptista Johannis,  
 Sanctus et Andreas, ac fuso sanguine Thomas,  
 Cum sanctis Scotiæ, patriæ pro gentis honore  
 Pugnabunt hodie, Christo Domino præsumpto.  
 Hoc duce vincetis, finem guerræ facietis;  
 Si pro peccatis vestris de corde fletis.  
 Omnes offensas regalis nostræ potestas  
 In nos commissas pronunciat esse remissas  
 Illis qui patrium defendunt nunc bene regnum.  
 Hoc ait; et populus regis verbis animatus  
 Promittit prompte bellum de corde subire.

### No. 3.

We here insert an extract from the truce made at Billy-mire in June, A. D. 1386. It is remarkable, as being one of the first truces which were drawn up in the English language, and affords an interesting specimen of the literature of that period.

"At Bilymyre the 27th day of Juyne, the year of Grace 1386 it is coudit between the Lord Nevill Wardsyn of the Est marche of Ing-

land agayne Scotland on the ta part, and the Bries of Douglas and of the Marche, Wardeyns of the Est marche of Scotland agayne Ingland on the tother part.

That ferme trewes abstinence of wer and special assurance sal be betwix yaim and thair bondys entrechangeably of Scotland and Ingland and the inhabitants in their bondys forsayde, balthe be see and be lande

#### In yis manere

That warnyng sal be made to thaym that is in land as sone as it may be goodly withoutyn fraude And to thaym that is upon the see as sone as that may be for outyn fraude or gyle So that the wardeyns be nocht charged befor the warnyng be made as befor is sayd.

Swa yat yir forsayd Lordes ne nan yar bondys sal do na trespas no attemptat in the bondys of the tother part, nouthet be byrning ne slayhter of men takyng and ransomyng of prisoners, takyng of Castelds of Fortresses, Walled Tounes na nane othir harmis in outyn manere fir to do na evel fra the makyng of yis endentures to ye last day of May next command, the sone gangand to rest.

To yis effect yat the commissairs of baith partys that meete about the xiv of mair yat next comes at place accorable betweene the wardeyns for to trete of a Pees Perpetual or a lang trewe betweene France and Scotland on the ta part and Inglande on the tuyer part.

Item It is accordit that durant yis time forsayd yat gyf ony gretter or smaller of the Reaumes shapes to do harme in to the bondys of the tother part, by chivance or any other manere, the Lordis forsayd sal set lettyng you in after yair leal Pooer & in cais yuy may not let, that aythair part sal make warnyng til uthir of 15 days, and yuy sal not be at yair Rydings na Harm doynge ne nan of thair Bondys at yaim wyttynglely; and gif ony of yair Bondys Trespas in yat manere the Lordis sal gar that be amendyt as far forth as they trespas.

Item it is accordit that nane of outyrsyde of the Bondys forseide for Thift, Murther, Treson, or Ref, sal change fays or be Receifin othyr Bondys, &, gif zar be, zai sal be restorit entrechangeably. Item it is accordit that speciale Assurance sal be on the see, fra the Water of Spee to the Water of Tamyse for all merchantles of bath the Roialmes & their Gudes.

#### No. 4.

The spot where the unfortunate warden De la Beauté was slain by Sir David Home of Wedderburn, is on the farm of Swallowdean, a mile or two east from Dunse, and is still distinguished by a moss-covered stone. It is called by the people in the neighbourhood *Bawtie's grave*.



His fate seems to have excited very general sympathy among the common people, and the tragic catastrophe is still narrated in their cottages, dressed up, of course, with many wonderful embellishments. The hoary peasant still tells to his grand-children the tale which he heard in his boyhood, that a supernatural being appeared to the Chevalier, warning him, as he valued his life, to avoid crossing the Corneyford—a passage across a streamlet that flows between Dunse and Langton, and his death is usually ascribed to his having neglected this friendly advice of the weird. The following effusion of the Border muse, founded on this superstition, has been communicated to us by a friend.

## I.

As Bawtie fled frae the Langton tower  
Wi' his troop along the way,  
By the Corney Foord ane auld man stood,  
And to him did Bawtie say:—

## II.

“Pr'ythee tell unto me, thou weird auld man,  
Whilk name this foord doth bear.”  
“’Tis the Corney-foord,” quoth the weird auld man,  
“And thou’lt cross it alive nae mair?”—

## III.

“Gin this be the Corney-foord indeed,  
The Lord’s grace bide wi’ me!  
For I’ll neer get hame to mine ain dear land,  
That lies sweet owre the sea:

## IV.

For I was tauld by a seer auld,  
That when I did cross this foord  
My hours were numbered ilka ane,  
And I’d fa’ aneath the sword.”

## V.

“Then ride thee fast, thou knight sae braw,”  
The auld man now did say,  
“Thou’rt safe gin thou can’st reach Dunbar  
Afore the gloamin’s grey.”

## VI.

Then Bawtie fled wi' furious speed  
 Away like the wintry wind ;  
 But the fiery Home, and his savage band,  
 Hard pressed on him behind.

## VII.

'Mang the lang green broom on the Stany-muir  
 Some fell, and some were slain ;  
 But Bawtie spurred on wi' hot hot speed,  
 The Lammermuir hills to gain.

## VIII.

Syne doon the hill to the east o' Dunse,  
 He rade right furiouslie,  
 Till near the house o' auld Cramecrook  
 Deep lair'd in a bog was he.

## IX.

Then fiery Home wi' a shout and yell  
 Cried, " Bawtie, I'll hae ye now !"  
 As his steed sunk doon i' the quiverin' marah  
 Where the white bog reeds did grow.

## X.

And the men o' the Merse around him ran  
 Wi' their lang spears glentin' gay ;  
 Grim Wedderburn wi' fury wild  
 Rushed on to the bluidy fray.

## XI.

The fray was sharp and soon was past,  
 And some faces there lay pale,  
 And the herd-boy stood on the hill aghast  
 At the slaughterin' in the dale.

## XII.

Their weapons guid were stained with the bluid  
 O' the wairden and his men ;  
 Grim Home hewed off young Bawtie's head,  
 And left his bouk i' the fen !

## XIII.

They stripped the knight o' his broidered vest,  
 Eke his helmet and his mail;  
 Syne they shroudless laid him doon to his rest,  
 Where strife shall nae mair assail.

## XIV.

Then light and gay the Homes returned  
 Wi' brave Bawtie's head on a spear!  
 Whilk their chieftain tied to his saddle bow  
 By its lang lang flowing hair!

## XV.

And they've set his head on the towerin' wa'a  
 O' the castle o' Hume sae high,  
 To moulder there i' the sun and the wind  
 Till mony lang years gae bye!

## XVI.

The léddies o' France may wail and mourn,  
 May wail and mourn fu' sair,  
 For the bonny Bawtie's lang brown locks  
 They'll ne'er see waving mair!

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 No. 5.

The original Letters of Logan have, within these few years, been discovered among the Warrants of Parliament, &c. in the Register Office, Edinburgh, and are accurately inserted in Mr. Pitcairn's interesting volume, from which we have transcribed them for the amusement of our readers.

1. *Robert Logan of Restalrig to . . . .*

Ryt. Honorabill Sir,

My dewty with servise remembred. Pleise yow understand, my Lo. of Gowry & some vtheris hes Lo. frendis & veill villeris, qua tendaris his Lo. better preferment, ar vpoun the resolucioun ye knaw for the révange of that cawse; and his Lo. hes vrettin to me anent that purpose, qhairto I will accorde, incase ye vill stand to & beir a pairt: And befoir ye resolve, meet me & M. A. R. in the Cannogat on Tysday

the nixt owk, & be alse var\* ye kan. Indeid M. A. R. spak with me fowre or fywe dayis syne, & I hew promised his Lo. ane ansvar vithin ten dayis at farrest. As for the purpose how M. A. R. and I hes set down the cownse, it vill be ane very esy done twrne, & nocht far by that forme, vith the lyke stratagem, qhair of ye had conferense in Cap. h. Bot incase ye & M. A. R. becawse he is someqhat consety, for Godis saik be very var vith his raklese toyis of Padoa; ffor he tald me ane of the strangest taillis of ane nobell man of Padoa that ever I heard in my lyf, resembling the lyk purpose. I pray yow, Sir, think na thing althocht this berare onderstand of it, for he is the special secretair of my lyf; his name is Lard Bower, & was auld Manderstones† man for deid and lyf, evin sa now for me. And for my awin part, he sall knaw of all that I do in this varld, sa lang as ve leif togidder, for I mak him my howsehald man: He is veill vorthy of credit & recommend him to yow. Alvyse to the purpose, I think best for our plat that we meet all at my house of Fastcastell; for I hew concludit vt. M. A. R. how I think it sal be meittest to be convoyit quyetest in ane bote be sey; at quhilk tyme vpon swre adwartisement I sall hew the place very quyett & veill provydit: And as I receve your answer I vill post this berair to my Lo. And therfoir, I pray yow, as ye luf yowr awin lyf, becawse it is nocht ane mater of mowise be circumspect in all thingis, & tak na feir bot all sall be veill. I have na vill that ather my brother or yet M. W. R. my Lo. auld pedagog knaw ony thing of the matter, qhill‡ all be done that ve vald hewe done; & than I cair nocht qha get vit, that lufes vs. Qhen ye hew red, send this my letter bak agayne vith the berar, that I may se it brunt myself, for sa is the fasson in sik erandis; & if ye please vryt yowr ansuer on the bak hereof, incase ye vill tak my vord for the credit of the berair: And vse all expedicioun, for the twrne vald nocht be lang delayit. Ye knaw the kingis hwnting vill be schortly, & than sall be best tyme, as M. A. R. has asswred me, that my Lo. hes resolved to enterpryse that matter. Lwking for yowr answer, committis yow to Chrystis haly protection. From Fastcastell, the awchten day of Julij, 1600.

(Sic subscribitur)

Youris to vtter power redy,

RESTALRIGE.

\* Wary.

† Boar it appears had been servant to Sir Alexander Home of Manderston.

‡ Till.

2. *Robert Logan of Restalrig to Laird Bower.*

LAIRD BOWER,

I pray you haste vast \* to me abowt the grand I tauld yow & we sall confer at lenth of all thingis. I hew recevet ane new letter fra my Lo(rd) of Go(wrie) concerning the purpose that M. A. his Lo. brothir spak to me befoir, and I perseif I may hew advantage of Dirlton, incase his other matter tak effect, as ve hope it sall. Alwayse I beseik yow be at me the morne at evin, for I hew asswred his lo. servand that I sall send you over the vatter within thre dayis, with aye full resolucioe of all my vill, anent all purposes: As I sall indeid recommend yow and yowr trustenees till his lo. as ye sall find an honest recompence for yowr panse † in the end. I cair nocht for all the land I hew in this kingdome, incase I get a grip of Dirlton, for I esteme it the pleasantest dwelling in Scotland. For Goddes cawse, keip all thingis very secret, that my lo. my brother ‡ get na knowlege of ewr purposes for I (wald?) rather be eirdit quik §. And swa loking for yow, I rest till meitting. Fra the Kannogait, the xvij day of July.

I am verie ill at ease & thairfoir speed yow hither.

(Sic subscribitur)

Yowris to power redy,

RESTALRIGE.

3. *Robert Logan of Restalrig to . . . . .*Ryt. Honorabil<sup>n</sup> Sir,

All my hartly dewty with humbill servise remembred. Sen I hew taken on hand to enterpryse with my lo(rd) of Go(wrie) yowr speciall & only best beloved, as ve hew set down the platt alreedy, I vill request yow that ye vill be very circumspek & vyse, that na man may get ane avantage of vs. I dowt nocht bot ye know the perell to be bayth lyf, land, & honowr, incase the mater be nocht vyslie used: And for my awin part I sall hew ane speciall respek to my promise that I hew maid till his lo. & M. A. his lo(rdschipsis) brother, althocht the skafald ver set vp. If I kan nocht vin to Fakland the first aycht, I

\* West.

† Pains or trouble.

‡ Lord Home. See note at page 206.

§ Buried alive.

shall be tymelie in St. Johnestoun on the morne. Indeed I lipnit for my lo(rd) himself or ellese M. A. his lo. brother at my howse of Fast (castell) as I vret to thame bayth. Alwyse I repose on yowr advertisement of the precyse day, with credit to the berar ; for howbeit he be bot ane silly ald gleyd carle, I will answer for him that he sall be very trew. I pray yow, sir, reid & ather bwrne or send agane vt the berare ; for I dar hasard my lyf & all that I hew ellise in the world on his message, I hew sik pruf of his constant trewth. Sa committis yow to Chrystis holy protection. Frome the Kannogait, the xxvij day of July 1600.

(Sic subscribitur)

Yowris till all power with humbill servise redy,

RESTALRIGE.

I vse nocht to wrytt on the bak of ony of my letteris concerning this erand.

#### 4. *Robert Logan to the Earl of Gowrie.*

My lo.

My maist humbill dewty with servise in maist hartlie maner remembred. At the resset of yowr lo(rdschippes) Letter I am so comforted, especially at yowr lo. purpose communicated onto me thairin, that I kan nather vtter my joy nor find myself habill how to encounter yowr lo. vt dew thanks. Indeed my lo. at my being last in the town, M. A. yowr lo. brother impertit somwhat of yowr lo(rdschippes) intencioun anent that mater onto me ; and if I had nocht been busyed abowt sum turnis of my awin, I thought till hew cummit over to S. Jo. & spoken with yowr lo(rdschip). Yit alwayse my lo., I be-seik yowr lo. bayth for the saiftie of yowr honowr, credit, & mair nor that, yowr lyf, my lyf, & the lyfis of mony vtheris qha may perhapes innocently smart for that turne efterwartis, incase it be reveelit be ony ; & lykvoyse, the utter vrking of owr landis & howeis & extirpating of owre names, lwke that ve be all else swre as yowr lo. & I myself sall be for my avin part, & than I dowl nocht bot, with Godis g(race), we sall bring our matter till ane fine\*, quhilk sall bring contentment to vs all that ever vissed for the revenge of the Maschevalent †

\* Conclusion.

† Machiavelian, after the cruel policy of Machiavel ; alluding to the beheading of William, Earl of Gowrie, May 28th, 1584.

massakering of owr deirest freindis. I dowl not bot M. A. yowr lo. brother hes informed yowr lo. quhat cowerse I layed down, to bring all yowr lo(rdschips) associates to my howse of Fa(stcastell) be sey, quhair I suld hew all materiallis in reddyness for thair saif recayving & landin into my howse; making as it ver bot a maner of passing time, in ane bote on the sey in this fair somer tyde; & nane othir strangeris to hant\* my howse, qhill ve had concludit on the laying of owr platt, quhilk is already devysed be M. A. & me. And I vald viss that yowr lo. wald ather come or send M. A. to me, & thereftir I sowld meet yowr lo. at Leith, or quyetly in Restal(rig) whair ve sowld hew prepared ane fyne hattit kit †, vat succar comfeitis & vyn; & thereeftir confer on matteris. And the soner ve brocht owr purpose to pass it ver the better, before harwest. Let not M. W. R. ‡ yowr awld pedagog ken of yowr comming, bot rather vald I, if I durst be sa bald, to entreat yowr lo. anis to come & se my avin howse, qhair I hew keepit my lo(rd) Bo(thwell) in his greatest extremetyes, say the K(ing) & his Counsall qhat they vald. And incase God grant vs ane happy swccess in this erand, I hope to haif bayth yowr lo. & his, at ane gude dyner, before I dy. Alvyse I hope that the K(ingis) bwk-hunting at Falkland, this yeir, sall prepar sum daynty cheir for ws, aganis that denner the next yeir. *Hoc jocose*, till animat yowr lo. at this tyme; bot eftirvartes ve sall hew bettir occasioun to mak mery. I protest, my lo. before God, I viss nathing vith a better hart nor to atchive to that quhilk yowr lo. vald fane attane onto; & my continual prayer sall tend to that effect; vt the large spending of my landis, gudis, yea the haserd of my lyfe, sall nocht afray me fra that, althocht the skaffald ver already sett vp, before I sould falsify my promese to yowr lo. and perswade yowr lo(rdschip) thereof. I trow yowr lo. hes ane pruife of my constancy alredy or now. Bot my lo. quaras yowr lo. desyris in yowr letter that I craif my lo. my brotheris mynd auent this mater, I alvertly § disasent fra that, that he sowld ever be ane counsalour therto; for in gude fayth, he vill nevir help his frend nor harm his fo. Yowr lo. may confyde mair in this ald man, the beirer heiroy, my man La(ird Bowr,) nor in my brother; for I leppen my lyfe & all I hew else in his handis; & I trow he vald nocht spair to ride to Hellis yet to ple-sowr me; & he is nocht begylet of my pairt to him. Alvyse, my lo. qhan yowr lo. hes red my Letter, delyver it to the berare agane, that

\* Frequent.

† The dish, known in Scotland by the name of "sour cogue," and Corstorphine cream, prepared by milking from the cow upon butter milk, kept till it is pretty sour, so sharply as to form a sort of froth.

‡ Mr. William Rhynd.

§ Openly.

I may se it brunt vith my awin ein ; as I hew sent yowr Lo. Letter to yowr lo. agane ; for so is the fassone I grant. And I pray yowr lo. rest fully perswaded of me & all that I hew promesed ; for I am resolved, howbeit I ver to dy the morne. I man entreit yowr lo. to expedie Bowr, and gif him strait directioun, one payn of his lyf, that he tak never ane vink sleep, qhill he se me againe ; or ellise he vill vtterly undo vs. I hew alreedy sent ane other Letter to the gentill man yowr lo. kennis as the berare vill informe yowr lo. forder at meting, qhen & qhair yowr lo. sall think meetest. To quhilk tyne & ever committis yowr lo. to the protectioun of the Almychtie God. From Gunisgrene, the twenty nynt of Julij, 1600.

(Sic subscribitur) Your lo. awin sworne & bund man to obey & serve vtefauld & ever redy servise to his vtter power till his lyfes end.

RESTALRIGE.

Prayis yowr lo. hald me excused for my vnsemy Letter, quhilk is nocht sa veil vrittin as misters ver ; ffor I durst nocht let ony of my vryteris ken of it, bot tuke twa syndry ydell dayis to it my self.

I vill never forgett the gude sporte that M. A. yowr lo. brother tald me of ane nobill man of Padoa, it comiss sa oft to my mery ory. And indeed it is a parastew \* to this purpose ve hew in hand.

##### 5. *Robert Logan of Restalrig to . . . .*

RYT. HONORABILL SIR,

My hartly dewty remembred. Ye knaw I tald yow at owr last meeting in the Cannogat that M. A. R. my lo. of Go(ries) brother had spokin vith me anent the matter of owr conclusioun ; & for my awin part I sall nocht be hindmest, & sinsyne I got ane Letter from his lo. self, for that same purpose ; & upon the ressait therof, onderstanding his lo. frankness & forwardness in it, God kennis if my hart vas nocht liftit ten stegiss ! I postit this same berare till his lo. to qhome ye may concredit all your hart in that alsveill as I ; for an it ver my very sowll, I durst mak him messinger thereof, I hew sic experience of his trewth, in mony other thingis ; He is ane silly ald gleyd carle, bot vonder honest : And as he hes reportit to me his lo. awin answer, I think all matteris sall be concluded at my howse of Fa(stcastell) ; for I and M. A. R. concluded that ye sould come vith him and his lo. and only ane other man vith yow, being bot only fowr

\* Exactly similar.



in company, intill ane of the gret fisching botis, be sey, to my howse, qher ye sall land ase saiffly as on Leyth schoir; and the howse agane his lo. cumming to be quyet: And qhen ye ar abowt half a myle fra schoir, as it ver passing by the howse, to gar set furth ane vaff. Bot for Godis sæk, let nether ony knowledge come to my lo. my brotheria eires \*, nor yit to M. W. R. my lo. auld pedagog; for my brother is kitill to scho behind †, and dar not interpryse for feir; and the other vile diswade vs fra owr purpose vt Ressounes of Religion, qhilk I can newer abyde. I think thair is nane of a nobill hart, or caryis ane stomak vorth a pennie ‡, bot they vald be glad to sie ane contented re-vange of Gray Steillis deid §; And the soner the better, or ellse ve may be marrit and frustrat; and therfore, pray his Lo(rdship) be qwik; and bid M. A. remember on the sport he tald me of Padoa; for I think with myself the cogitacion on that sowld stimulat his Lo(rdship.) And for Godis cawse vse all your cowrses *cum discrecione*. Fell noch, sir, to send bak agane this letter; for M. A. leirnit me that fasson, that I may se it destroyed myself. Sa till yowr cumming, and ever com-mittis yow hartely to Christis holy protection. From Gunnisgrene the last of July, 1600.

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No. 6.

*Trial of George Sprott, Notary in Eyemouth, 12th August, 1608.*

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*George Sprote, Notter in Haymouth*

Delaitit, accusit and persewit be Sir Thomas Hammiltoun of Bynnie, of certane tressonable crymes, contenit in his Dittay following.

George Sprote, notter in Eyemouth, Ye are indytit and accusit, fforsamekill as umquhile Johnne, sumtyme Erle of Gowrie, haifing maist crewallie, detestabillie, and tressonabillie conspyrit, in the

\* Alexander, fifth Lord Home, married Agnes, sister of Patriek Lord Grey, and widow of Sir Robert Logan of Restalrig. By her he had one son, Alexander, who became sixth Lord Home, on his father's death in Aug. 1575. This Lord then was "brother" to Logan, being the son of his mother.

† Not easily managed, like a refractory horse when getting shod.

‡ No person of any spirit.

§ Grey Stell was the name by which the Earl's father had been familiarly known.

moneth of July or thairby the yeer of God 1m vjc yeeris to Murther our deir and most graceous souerane, the Kingis maist sacred maiestie; & haifing impairtit that devillisch purpois to umquhile Robert Logane of Restalrig, quha allowit of the samyn, and maist willinglie and reddelie undertuik to be pairtaker thairof; the samyn cuming to your knowlege, at the tymes & in maner perticulerlie eftir specefeit, ye maist vnnaturallie, maliciouslie & treasonabilie conceilit the samyn; and was airt and pairt thairof in maner following. In the first, in the said moneth of Julij the yeir of God 1m vjc yeiris, eftir that ye had persavet and knawin that dyuerse Letteris and messages had past betuix the said sumtyme Erle and the said Laird of Restalrig, ye being in the place of Falst-Castell ye saw and red the begynning of ane Letter writtin with the said umquhile Robert Logane of Restalrig his awin hand to the said umquhile Johnne sumtyme Erle of Gowrie, of the tennour following:

‘ My Lord,

‘ My maist humbill deutie and service hertlie rememberit; Att the ressait of zour lordschippis letteris, I am so comfortit, that I can nather vtter my joy nor find myself sufficientlie abill to requyte zour lordschip with dew thankis, and persuaid zour lordschip in that matter, I sall be als fordward for zour lordschipsis honour as gif it war my awin caus. I think thair is na living Christiane that wald nocht be content to revenge that Macheveliane massacre of our deir freindis, ze, howbeit it suld be to ventour and haizaird lyfe, landes, and all vther thinges ellis my heart can bind me to tak pairt in that mater, as zow sall find better pruiif thairof. Bot ane thing wald be done, that zour lordschip sould be circumspect and be earnest with zour brother that he be nocht rasche in ony speeches, tuiching the purpois of Padua.”

And ane certane space eftir the execution of the forsaid Tressone, the said umquhile Robert Logane of Restalrig, haifing desyrit Laird Bowre to delyver to him the fairsaid Letter or ellis burne it; and Bowre haifing gevin to yow all tickettis and lettres quhilk he than had, ather concerning Restalrig or vtheris, to sicht the samyn, becaus he could nocht reid him self; ye abstractit the above written lettre and retenit the same in your awin handis and dyverse tymes red jt; contening forder in substance nor is formerlie set down according to thir woirdis following:

‘ My Lord,

‘ Ze may easalie onderstand that sic ane purpois as zour lordschip intendis can nocht be done raschlie, bot with deliberatioun; and

I think for my self, it were maist meet to haif the men zour lordschip spak of, reddie in ane boit or bark, and address thame as they war tak- and pastyme vpon the sie, in sic fair somer time; and gif zour lordschip could think guid ather to cum zour self to my house of Falet-Castell be sie, or send zour lordschipsis brother, I sould haif the place verrie quyet and well provydit, eftir zour lordschipsis advertisement; and persuaid zour lordschip, ze sould be als sure and quyet heir, quhill we had settillet our plot, as gif ze war in zour awin chamber; ffor I trow and I am assurit, we sal heir woird within few dayis, fra thame zour lordschip knawis of, for I haif care to sie quhat schipsis cumes by. Zour lordschip knawis I haif keepit my Lord Bothuell quyetlie in this hous, in his grettest extremities, say the King and his Counsal quhat thay lykit: And I hoip, gif all thingis cum to pas as I trust they sall, to haif baithe zour lordschip and his lordschip at ane guid dyner afoir I die; *et hoc jocosè* to animat your lordschip: And dout nocht, my lord, bot all thingis sall be weill, and I am resolvet, quhairof zour lordschip sall nocht doubt of ony thing of my pairt, ze, to perrell lyfe, land, honour and guidis; ze the haizard of hell sall nocht effray me fra that; zea, thocht the skaffold war alreddie set up! The soner the matter war done it war the better; for the Kingis buk-hunting will be schortlie, and I hoip it sall prepair sum daintie cheir for ws to dyne aganis the nixt zeir. I remember weill, my lord, and I will nevir forget sa lang as I leve, that mirrie sport zour lordschippis brother tauld me of ane noble man at Padua, for I think that ane parasteue to this purpois.

Quhilk Letter, writtin everie woird with the said umquhile Robert Logane his awin hand, was subscriuit be him efter his accustomed maner, with this woird "Restalrig." And albeit, be the contentes of the fairsoid Letter, ye knew perfytlie, the treuth of the said maist tressonable conspiracie, and the said umquhile Robert Logane of Restalrig his foir knowledge allowance and giltieness thairof; lyk as, ye was assuret thairof, by his ressaueing of dyverse Letteris send to Gourie for the said purpois, and be sundrie conferences betuix the said umquhile Robert Logane of Restalrig and umquhile James Bour alias callit Laird Bour in your presence and heiring, concerning the said Tressoun, alsweill in the said moneth of July immediately preceding the said Tressoun, as at dyverse utheris tymes, schortlie thairafter; as lykways, be the reveeling thairof to yow be the said umquhile James Bour alias callit Laird Bour, quha was vpon the knowlege and devyse of the said Tressoun; and was imployit as ordiner mesengir by the said umquhile Robert Logane of Restalrig to the said umquhile Erle of Gowrie in the traffique of the said damnabil Tressoun; quhair-by your knowlege, concealling and giltiness of the said Tressoun was undenyable: Zit. for forder manifestatioun thairof, about zule, in the

zeir of God Im vjc. and twa zeires, the said umquhile Robert Logane of Restalrig him self schew to yow, that Bour had tauld him, that he had been sumquhat rasche to let you sie ane Letter quhilk came fra the Erle of Gowrie to the said Laird of Restalrig, quha then vrget yow to tell quhat ye vnderstuid be that Letter ! To quhome ye ansuerit, that ye "tuik the meaning of it to be that he had been on the purpois and counsal of the Gowreis' conspiracie:" And he answering to yow, that "quhat evir he had done, ye war his awin ; but gif ye wald sweir to him, that ye sould nevir reveel any thing to ony persone, he sould be the best sicht that evir ye saw." And in token of forder recompance he than gaif to yow tuelf pundes of siluer. Neuertheles, albeit ye perfytlie knew the haill practeis and progres of the said Tressoun, frome the begynning thair of, as said is, alsweell be your sicht of the said Letteris as also be your conferences with the said umquhile James Bour and umquhile Robert Logane of Restalrig, yit, during all the dayes of the lyftymes of the said umquhile Robert Logane of Restalrig and the said umquhile James Bour, quha bayth levit quhill the yeir of God Im vjc and sax yeiris or thairby, be the space of sax yeiris eftir that ye knew thair giltines of the tressonabill conspiracie foresaid, ye maist tressonabillie conceillit the samyn : And sua, ye was and is airt and pairt of the said maist haynous, detestabill, and tressonabill conspiracie : And thairfor ye aucht and sould incur, vnderly and suffer the sentence and pane of Heich Treason. To the taikin that ye haif nocht only be your depositionis, solemptielie maid and subscriyuet with your hand, in presens of many of the Lordes of his Maiesties Counsall and of the Ministeres of this toun, of the dait the fyft, fyvetene, and xvi of July last bypast and tent day of August, confessit everie heid, poynt, and article of the Dittay ; bot also by diuerse vtheris your Depositionounes subscriyuit with your hand, ye haif Ratifeit the samyn and swoir constantlie to abyde thairat, and to seill the same with your bluid : Quhilk ye can nocht deny.'

The poor notary having made confession before the Assize, was accordingly convicted of being "airt and pairt" in the conspiracie, and accordingly received sentence of death as follows:—

"For the quhilk caus the said Justice Deputé be the mouth of George Cheislie, dempster of Court, be his sentence and dome decernit and ordanit the said George Sprote to be tane to the mercait croce of the burgh of Edinburgh, and thair to be hangit vpone ane gibbet, quhill he be deid ; and theireftir, his heid to be struken frome his body ; and his body to be quarterit and deviduit as ane tratour ; and his heid to be put vpone ane prik of irne abone the Tolbuth of Edinburgh, quhair the rest of the Conspiratoures heidis standis : And his haill landis, heritages, takis, steidingis, rowmes, possessionis, guidis and geir to be

forfaltit and escheit to our souerane lordis vse as culpable and convict of airt and pairt of the treasonabill and detaistabill crymes aboue specefieit and conceeling thair of. Quhilk was pronuncet for dome."

### *Sprottis Deposition vpon the Skalfolde.*

At Edinburgh, the xij day of August 1608, George Sprott, notar in Eymouth, being brocht to the scaffold and place of executioun, he in publict audience of the haill people, at the foure nykeis of the scaffold, ratified his former Depositions, anent his knowledge and concealing of Restalrigis guyltines of Gouryis Treasoun; ffor the whiche he humbly craved God and his Maiestie (humblee) forgifnes; being most sorie and grievit that he had offended God and the Kingis Maiestie, in concealing suche a vyld, detestable, and vnnatural Treasoun, interpreset be the Erl of Gowry and Laird of Restalrig agains his natural King, so goode and so godly a Prince, who hes evir bene so gracious to his subiectis and to this haill Iland; protesting, that yf he had a thousand lyveis to rander and wer able to suffer ten thousand deathis it is not sufficient satisfioun and recompence for his sa foull and horrible offens; and that God had preservit him from mony great perellia, when his lyfe was in extreame danger, to bring him to this publict declaratioun of that detestabill and horrible fact, in testifeing of the treuth as he said publictly in presence of all the people in ther wordes following. To my owne schame, the schame of the Devill, and (the) glorie of God, for satisfioun of the consciences of all these, yf ony be, that hes or can mak ony doubt of the treuth of this so cleir a mater. And he acknowledgies that his hanting with Restalrig, who was a man without Religioun, and subiect to mony other vyceis, and his ingyreing of himself in thir materis, eftir the first sight of Restalrigis Lettres writtin to Goury: And his continuall beiring of company with Restalrig and Laird Bour, who was irreligious and without feir of God, brocht him from one syn to another; and consequentlie upoun this greivous (sine) ffor the which most iustlie, worthelie, and willinglie, he is now to rander his lyffe: And he desirit all the people (present) to bewar of evill company, and namelie of the company of these who ar voyd of Religioun: And he desyrit the Ministeris of Godis worde to publishe this his Declaratioun to thair flokis frome thair pulpettis; and tooke every one of thame who wer present be the hand, with thair promees to do the same, saying vnto thame, that "this was the most glorious day that ever his eyis did sie," and with these wordes, he prostrates himself, and falles vpone his kneis, in presence of the haill people, and made a verie pithy prayer, beginning in this

forme as followis. 'O fader ! how sould I call thee fader that am so vnworthie to be callit thy sone ! I haiff wanderet astray lyke a lost scheepe, and thow of thy mercy hes brocht me home (un)to thee, and lies preservit my lyfe from mony dangeris vntill this day, that I might reveell these hid and secreit misteries, to my awne schame and thy glorie; and thow hes promisset, that whensoever a sinner from his hairt will repent and call to thee with unfenzeit repentance, that thow will heir him, and giff him mercy !' And so he continewit a good space in a most fervent prayer to the great admiratioun and rejoicing of all the people, and in a better forme and maner nor ony of the beholders and heiraris can be able to set down in wryte ; the same not being written in the present tyme, becaus thair wes no place of writting vpoun the scaffold in respect of the prease and multitude of the people. And going vp the ledder, he desirit libertie to sing the sext Psalme, and requestit the people to accompany him in singing thair of : Which being grantit, and he being at the ladder head, the same wes tane up and sounge be himself with a very loud and myghtie voce ; and wes assisted with above the number of fyve hundreth personis, who with teares, accompanied him in singing (of) that Psalme : After the ending wherof he repetit and ratefeit his said former Deposition : And with that recommending his soule to God, he wes cassin over, and so endit his mortal lyffe. In witness quhair of we under-scryvaris who for the most parte, were all of vs vpone the scaffold with him, and remanit with him vntill the tyme of his death, and otheris of vs in so convenient placis neir to the scaffold, that we did heir all that spokin be him have subscryvit thir presentis with our handis.

(Sic subscribitur) Glascu. B. Galloway. A. Brechin. Balfour of Burley. Haliroodhous. Jo. Prestoun Cla. Regri. Pa. Schairp. M. P. Galloway and others.

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## No. 7.

### *Extracts from the Session Records of the Parish of Coldingham.*

Sessio 103 ia post meridiem, June 28. 1696.

" The town was visited, disorders were found, and several persons reprov'd. Joseph Minto was found in time of divine service idling away his time, lying upon a heather stack or turfe ; and being interrogat by the Elders what he was doing there, and why he was out of church, answered what was yt to them. The elders told him that it was not

the first time that they had found him breaking the Lord's day. He answered that it shall not be the last neither. Being further reprov'd for ye sin, and exhorted to repentance and reformation, he answered that it was an ill world since the like of them were reprov'g folks for sin. The session considering the perverseness of the youth, and that both he and his parents were frequenters of the schismatical meeting house, did recommend to the minister to deal privately with him, &c."

Session 214<sup>ta</sup> October 1698.

"James Nicholson being called compar'd, and being interrogat if he scratch or bleed Alison Nesbit *above the breath* as was said of him. Ans: Yes. Being interrogat why he did it. Ans: yt he could never get rest for her night or day and now he has rest. Being interrogat whether he was troubled with her in his mind or personallie, Ans: yt he was fashed and vexed with her oft at his door with her scolding. Being interrogat whether he did bleed her because he suspected her of witchcraft, and thought that bleeding of her above the breath would save him from her witchcraft. Ans: yt many has done so before now in this place, to which the minister answered, None yt he did hear of since he came to it. He being removed, it was concluded yt he be rebuked before the congregation for such an abominable fact, which sentence was intimated to him, when he was called in, and pains taken upon him to submitt, and to show his folly and wickedness, and how dishonourable and provoking to God, how grateful to the devil, being a kind of sacrificing to him, and how injurious to himself and his neighbour whom he did bleed above the breath. It was also judiciously intimated to him yt by so doing he had declared himself incapable of the sealing ordinances, and that he could not be admitted sponser to his children.

Session 213<sup>tia</sup> 2d October 1698.

Jean Hart, the suspected witch, being called and not compearing, is ordered to be cited *pro 2do*. It is reported that she has fled the country.

Session 130<sup>ma</sup> 27th December 1696.

Let it be observed, that at writing hereof in several places of this shire there is corn not yet shorn, and much not gotten brought home to barn-yards, much was shorn very green; and people waiting for the ripening of their corn were kept from reaping of it, first by rains, next by snow, and after by a new storm of rain and frost and snow succeeding it; and now with ye thaw and continued foggy and moist weather,

with some showers: yt the very stacks, and even these headed, are in danger; and people are difficulted to get stacks in any case to be cast in for fodder for their beasts; and the threshed pease will not keep in granaries, being swelled, but grow mouldie and corrupt, so that they must dry them on kilns, and to our knowledge some take but half ye measure from ye kiln yt they brought to it, they dry in so much, and even of that pease yt lay long, and was turned every day in a granary, except the Lord's day. And in other shires there are greater fields not yet shorn than in this,—a sad evidence of God's anger, displeasure, and wrath against us for our multiplied sins. \*

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### No. 8.

1. Mandate of Henry Fourth of England, ordering William Clifford, Governor of Fast Castle, to deliver up his charge to his son, John Duke of Bedford, and Governor of the eastern marches of Scotland, at the Feast of the Virgin Mary's Nativity, A. D. 1404. It is transcribed from the 370th page of the 8th volume of Rymer's *Fœdera*.

"A. D. 1404. Rex Delecto et Fideli suo, Willielmo Clifford, salutem, Mandamus vobis, firmiter injungentes quod, visis presentibus in Festo Nativitatis beatæ Mariæ proximo futuro Castrum sive Fortalitium vocatum Fascastell in Scotia Carissimo Filio nostro Johanni Custodi Marchiarum nostrarum Scotiæ versus orientem vel ejus Locumtenenti, Deputatis, sive Attornatis, unacum Artillaria et aliis Rebus nostris quibuscunque, in eodem Castro sive Fortalicio existentibus, per Indenturas inter eundem Filium nostrum sive ejus Locumtenentem, Deputatos sive Attornatos, et vos in hoc parte debitè conficiendos libetis.

Volumus enim vos inde, a dicto Festo erga nos exonerari.

Teste Rege apud Lichefel 29 die Augusti."

2. Extract of a Letter from the Duke of Bedford, written in Norman French, and addressed to the Keeper of the Privy Seal, exhibiting the wretched state to which the garrison was reduced, on account of

\* Yt at Edinburgh on the 14th instant, one Thomas Ackenhead was hanged for Blasphemy and Atheism, who at his execution, though he cursed Christ before, and denied the being of God, and asserted Christ to be an impostor, and Moses another, owned one God, Christ Jesus, the only Mediator; and desired that all good people might pray for him, and declared, that as he had left God, so God had left him to be led by carnal reason to reproach religion. He sang a part of the 51st Psalm before he ascended the ladder.



large parties of the Scots perpetually hovering about in the vicinity of the castle, and intercepting their supplies. It is published in Stevenson's *Excerpta Scottica*, page 73, and is transcribed from the Cotton MS. Vesp. F. vij. fol. 97, in the British Museum.

"Treschier et de tout notre entier coer tresentierment bien ame, Je vous salue tressouvement de tresentier coer, vous signifiantz coment les chastelx de Berewyk, Jedworth, et Fast-Castle, quelles me sont comys a gouverner, sount ore devenuz a si grande mischief que, sibien pour defaute de paiement de gages a les souldiours illoques esteantz duez et a derer, que chacun jour sount en point et ferme purpos dilloques depertir et les lesser desolat et saunz governance. Pour celle cause come pour defaute de vitaille reparacon, et autre estuffe icelles necessaires, busoignables et appertenantz et auxi pour paour des tresgrandes routes et compaines des Escotz que en especial fount continuel agait entour le dit-chastell de Fastcastell a prendre les souldiours a leur entre et issue illoques et vilement destruer lour vitailles illoques amenez pour lour sustenance, sour tout outrement en point destre pris et perduz, a tresgrande vergoine de trestout le roialme si ne hastive et effectuel remedie ne soit mys et ordennes &c. Escript al chastell de Werkworthe le xxvj jour de Novembre.

JOHAN. FITZ au ROY."

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### No. 9.

The original contract, of which the following is a copy, is preserved in the charter-chest of Lord Napier at Merchiston Castle, and is drawn up in the hand-writing of the celebrated inventor of the logarithms, and signed by himself and Logan.

"At Edinbruch, the xxx day of Julij, yeir of God 1m vc foirscoir fourtein yeiris.—It is apointit, contractit, and agreit, betuix the personis onderwrettin; that is to say, Robert Logane of Restalrige on the ane pairt, and Jhone Neper of Mercheston on the uther pairt, in maner, forme, and effect as followis:—To wit, for samekle as ther is dyverses ald reportis, moteffs and apperancis, that there suld be within the said Robertis dwellinge place of Fascastell a soun of monie and poiss hid and hurdit up secretlie, quhilk as yet is onfund be ony man: The said Jhone sall do his utter and exact diligens to secrete and seek out and be all craft and engyne that he dow (can exert), to attempt, trye, and find out the sam, and be the grace of God ather sall find out

the sam, or than make it suir that na sik thing hes been thair ; sa far as his utter diligens and engyne may reach. For the quhilk the said Robert sall gif, as be the tenour hereof, he giffis and grantis unto the said Jhone the just third pairt of quhatsoever poiss or hid tressour the said Jhone sall find, or beis fund be his moyan and ingyn within or abut the said place of Fastcastell, and that to be pairtit be just wicht and balance betwix thaim, but (without ony fraud, stryff, debait, and contention,) on sic maner as the said Robert sall heff the just twa partis, and the said Jhone the just third pairt therof upone thair fayth, truth, and consciens. And for the said Jhonis suir return and saiff bakcumming tharwith to Edinbruch, on beand spulzeit of his said third pairt or utherways hairmit in body or geir, the said Robert sall mak the said Jhone saiff convoy, and accompanie him saiffle in maner forsaid bak to Edinbruch quher the said Johne beand saiffle returnit, sall in presens of the said Robert cancell and destroy this present contract as a full discharge heiroyf, but the destroying of the present contract sall be of ony avall, forse, or effect. And incaiss the said Johne sall find na poiss to be thair, efter all tryall and utter diligens tane, he referres the satisfactions of his trawelle and paines to the discretion of the said Robert. In witnes of thir presens, and of all honestie, fidelitie, faith, and upright doing to be observit and keipit be bayth pairtis to uther, thei heff subscriyvit thir presentis with thair handis at Edinbruch, day and yeir forsaid.

(Signed)

ROBERT LOGANE of RESTALRIGE.

JHONE NEPER of MERCHESTOUN.

## No. 10.

### *Boorlaw Book of Auchencraw.*

#### 1.

If any man dwelling in the neighbourhood hold sums above his stent, being charged by the Boorlaw, or his neighbours, to put them off the ground ; for every 24 hours they are kept after the warning, and command of the Boorlaw, he is to pay 20 shillings Scots money.

#### 2.

Whosoever shall have any beasts lying without house, betwixt the 3d day of May and the corn's being shorn and led to the yard, for ilk

night he is complained upon, he shall pay 20 shillings Scots to the Boorlaw; and if there be any calling, to pay the value of the comprisement.

## 3.

Whosoever tethers his horse on his neighbour's ground the skaith shall be comprised, and payment made to the complainer. Moreover, he shall pay to the Boorlaw half a merk for ilk fault.

## 4.

Whosoever pastures goods upon other men's grounds, being discharged by the possessor, shall pay 6 shillings; and if he be far within the ground, shall pay for ilk fault to the Boorlaw six shillings and eight pennys.

## 5.

There shall no man hold a follower from five quarters old, but it shall stand for two followers.

## 6.

Whosoever they be, man, woman, or servant, that stops the officer to poind, after the act is passed, the goodman of the house shall be answerable for all the rest, and shall pay to the Boorlaw 6 shillings.

## 7.

If any man complain upon another wrongfully, if it is proved contrary from the time given up to the Boorlaw, the complainer shall pay 6 shillings.

## 8.

Whosoever casts Peats, Turves, Fail, or Divots upon his neighbour's ground, shall pay 20 shillings to the Boorlaw; and he that ought the land shall lead them home to himself.

## 9.

He that breaks his neighbour's ground with a spade, shovel, or hoe, shall make it all as good as it was, and shall pay to the Boorlaw 20 shillings.

## 10.

Whosoever steals turves or peats from his master, or any other neighbour within the ground, shall pay for the first fault 20 shillings, and shall be put off the ground.

## 11.

Whosoever receives any man's servants or cotter with straw or hay, he shall deliver the same to the complainer, and be put out of the parish, and shall pay 20 shillings to the Boorlaw.

## 12.

Whosoever troubles or molests the Boorlaw, or any in their presence, with ill language, shall pay 20 shillings to the Boorlaw.

## 13.

Whosoever is lawfully warned to the Boorlaw by the Boorlaw men or other officer, being complained upon for non-compearance, shall pay 10 shillings for the first fault, and 20 shillings for the second, and shall be given up to the Heritors as contemnners of and disobedient to their authority.

## 14.

If any man's goods shall happen on another's skaith as corns, meadow or common pasture, the owner of the corns, meadow, &c. shall have no liberty to poynd the goods, or do any harm to the herds, but complain to the Boorlaw, and the skaith shall be comprised, and satisfaction given to the owner, i. e. the complainer.

## 15.

Whosoever shall contemn the Boorlaw, and act above mentioned either by poynding the goods, strikeing the heads, or detaining the cattle, thinking to despise the Boorlaw, all the skaith shall be lost, and he shall pay the Boorlaw 20 shillings.

## 16.

Also our Boorlaw men discharges and forbids, by act of Boorlaw, all within our bounds to hold Swine, Ducks, Geese, being skaithful to corne, under the pain of 20 shillings for ilk time they are complained upon, and the skaith presently paid to the complainer.

## 17.

Whosoever has their goods among their neighbours' truves, casting them down and breaking them with their feet; for ilk time they are complained upon shall pay 20 shillings Scots to the Boorlaw.

## 18.

If any man be charged by the Boorlaw to go and comprise corn

eaten by his neighbours' goods, if it is not prise worth, that is to say, within  $\frac{1}{2}$  a peck, shall pay to the Boorlaw  $\frac{1}{2}$  a merk.

## 19.

Whosoever stops at home from the Boorlaw, and sends another in his name (being in health), shall pay half a merk to the Boorlaw.

## 20.

If any Herd or others shall break these acts, their master shall go with the officer and poind them himself, and deliver a sufficient Poind, according to the fault, otherwise their masters shall be poinded themselves, and satisfaction made to the complainer.

## 21.

Whosoever is poinded for breach of any act insert in the Boorlaw book, if he loose not the same within fyfteen days, he shall not have access to make suit for it again, though never so good.

## 22.

Any dwelling in the neighbourhood that has any teathered Nolt on the ground, albeit it is parted ground, for ilk time they are complained upon, shall pay 20 shillings to the Boorlaw.

## 23.

He that sheareth his neighbour's corn, the same being run-rig, if he comes with the shearers himself, he shall restore two shearers for every one he takes away, and shall pay orderly to the Boorlaw 20 shillings.

## 24.

Any man in the neighbourhood who sheds his beasts from the rest, and feeds them on any part of the hained ground, ilk time he is complained upon, shall pay 20 shillings to the Boorlaw, except they be new let go from work.

## 25.

If any man's goods go astray, and hurt another's corn, he poinding them not knowing the owner, but sends to the party suspected, and if they are his, and yet he deny them, for fear of damage from the Boorlaw, shall pay 20 shillings, and satisfy the complainer by jwldges.

## 26.

He that receipts or fees another man's servant shall pay the wages; if the servant is once entered and content, the complainer be judge.

## 27.

Any in the neighbourhood where the land is runrig, that tilleth any of his neighbours unto his own, being furred by the Boorlaw men, the complainers loss shall be made good, and he shall pay 20 shillings for his oppression to the Boorlaw.

## 28.

We statute and ordain, that during the time of Harvest, no man shall tether horses among his neighbours' stouks or standing corn till the fields are clear, under the pain of 20 shillings.

## 29.

Sik like during harvest no man shall put out his horses before the sun rise, or be out after the sun is set.

## 30.

None shall put forth his goods in the neighbourhood where there is a common herd, till he fetch them at the usual time, under pain of 20 shillings.

## 31.

Whosoever eateth his neighbours' corn, the skaith shall be comprised. If the owner of the goods refuse the comprisement, he shall be poinded, satisfaction made to the complainer, and he shall pay 20 shillings to the Boorlaw.

## 32.

There shall no man infield of folding ground, without advice and consent of his neighbours, under pain of 20 shillings.

## 33.

Whosoever in the neighbourhood is charged by his neighbour to mend roads, let away water broken out at wrong sluices, or to mend bridges, being in their manors, and refuseth, shall pay to the Boorlaw 20 shillings.

## 34.

Whosoever is charged by the Boorlaw to go and comprise corn, meadows, judge marches, or part land, if he refuse, shall pay 20 shillings to the Boorlaw.

## 35.

Whosoever keeps not the Boorlaw orderly, and cannot produce a sufficient reason for his absence, shall pay to the Boorlaw 10 shillings.

## 36.

We statute and ordain, that no man have his calves going among his

neighbour's corn above the age of 6 weeks old, under the pain of 20 shillings ilk time complained upon.

## 37.

We discharge and prohibit that no man have foals going on other men's corn above 6 weeks old, but they shall keep them with their dames, at the pain of 6 shillings each fault.

## 38.

Whosoever causeth carts or waggons go off road, under pretence of foul roads, and hereby hurteth his neighbour's corn, when he can get about by any means, shall pay to the Boorlaw 20 shillings.

## 39.

He that hath a wanton or unruly foal, or stag that runs commonly from the herdage to corns or meadows, must langit it, otherways the keeper shall not be accountable for the damage, but the owner shall satisfy the complainer, and pay 20 shillings to the Boorlaw.

## 40.

There shall no man ride upon one horse with another in his hand, where the road is bounded on both sides with corn, and so trample the same; but he shall go about another way, to keep clear of his own and neighbourhood's skaith, otherways he shall pay 20 shillings every time he is complained on.

## 41.

Whosoever dwelling in the neighbourhood, having muck or dung lying near his neighbours; if they take any of their neighbours' wrongfully, shall both pay it back, quantity for quantity, and to the Boorlaw 20 shillings.

## 42.

It is ordained, that no cotter, nor sub-tenant, shall have any more than 8 carts full of Turves, and he that leads any more, shall pay to the Boorlaw 40 shillings, and he that receives them as much.

## 43.

It is ordained, that no cotter's calf be found among the corn, under pain of 20 shillings.

## 44.

It is ordained, that none pluck heather in the fence, but shall pay 6 shillings and 8 pennys for ilk burden.

## 45.

It is ordained, that no man leads corn in the neighbourhood till it is

condescended upon in a fenced Boorlaw Court ; and that no man lead or poyn among corn after twilight, under 40 shillings to the Boorlaw.

## 46.

Lastly, it is ordained, that none put out horses until day-light, under pain of 6 shillings and 8 pence to the Boorlaw.

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 No. 11.

*Copy of the Feu-Charter granted by Robert Logan to James Bour, 23d June, A. D. 1576.*

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Omnibus hanc chartam visuris vel auditoris Robertus Logane baro baroniæ de Restalrige ac dominus superior terrarum subscriptarum salutem in domino sempiternam. Noveritis me dedisse, &c. &c. dilecto nostro Jacobo Bour commorante in villa de Auchincraw heredibus suis et assignatis hereditarie totam et integram illam mercatam terræ nuncupatam Park-land cum singulis suis pertinentiis jacentem in villa et territorio de Auchencraw baronia de Coldinghame et infra vicecomitatum de Berwick. Quæquidem mercata terræ, &c. olim pertinuit. Patricio Bower in Auchencraw, &c. et quod idem Patrichius non vi nec metu ductus nec errore lapsus compulsus aut coactus sed sua mera pura, &c. voluntate per suos procuratorios ad hoc legitime et irrevocabiliter constitutos apud burgum Vicicanonicorum cum omnibus, &c. *Tenendam* et habendam totam et integram predictam mercatam terræ nuncupatam Park-land, &c. prefato Jacobo Bower, &c. de me heredibus et successoribus meis in libera alba firma in perpetuum per omnes rectas metas antiquas et divisas prout jacentem et longitudine et latitudine in domibus edificiis boscis planis moris marresiis, viis, semitis, aquis, stagnis, rivulis, pratis, pascuis, et pasturis, molendinis, multuris, aucupationibus, venationibus, piscationibus, petariis, turbariis, carbonibus, carbonariis, columbis, columbariis, cunicellis, cuniculariis, pomis, pomariis, brasinis, brueriis, genistis, silvis, nemoribus et virgultis, lapide et calce, &c. &c. *Reddendo* annuatim dicto Jacobo Bower heredibus suis, &c. mihi et successoribus meis antedictis unum denarium usualis monetæ regni scotiæ in festo Pentecostis, super solum terrarum predictarum nomine albæ firmæ, si petatur tantum pro omni alio onere, exactione, questione, demanda seu servitio seculari, quæ de predicta mercata terræ cum pertinentiis per quoscunque exigi poterunt, quomodolibet . . . . . Et Ego Vero dictus Robertus Logane



heredes mei, &c. totam et integram mercatam terræ, &c. prefato Jacobo Bower, &c. adeo libere et quiete in omnibus et per omnem formam pariter et effectum ut premissum est contra omnes mortales warrantzabimus acquietabimus et in perpetuum defendemus. In cujus rei testimonio presentibus manu mea subscriptis sigillum meum est appensum. Apud dictum burgum Vicicanonicorum vicesimo tertio die mensis Junij Anno domini millesimo quingentesimo septuagesimo sexto coram his testibus Willielmo Wallace commorante in villa de Chirnisyde, Georgio Auchencraw et Johanne Auchencraw filio Jacobi Auchencraw in Gunisgrene, Joanne Hoppermyhill meo servitori et Jacobo Logane notario publico.

*Robert Logane  
of Leith*



# HISTORY

OF

## COLDINGHAM,

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### PART II.

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#### *The Monastery of St. Ebb.*

THE period of the foundation of this primitive religious establishment, is not very precisely known. The popular opinion is, that it owed its erection to the princess Ebba, daughter of Ethelfrid, though we feel rather disposed to attribute it to the zeal of her pious brother, Oswald, under whose auspices the sister convent of Lindisferne was founded in the year 635, and strenuous efforts made to promulgate the doctrines of Christianity throughout his kingdom of Northumbria \*. The earlier ecclesiastical writers are silent on this point, though they all agree in making Ebba its benevolent patron and benefactress. Holinshead, the chronicler,

\* The good king Oswald ascended the throne of Northumberland in 634, and was slain with the greater part of his army at the battle of Maserfield in Shropshire, fighting against the monster Penda, king of Mercia, in 642.—Bede's Eccles. Hist. Lib. iii. c. 9—12.

tells us that while her brother Oswy's kingdom was distracted with civil convulsions, that princess made her escape from those by whom she had been taken prisoner, and "miraculously got a bot in the river Humber, and with the same taking the sea alone without all human help (as hath been reported) she sailed forth, and at length safely arrived at the point of land which stretcheth forth into the sea in the mouth of the Forth, called even unto this day St. Ebbe's Head; where being received by the bishop of that diocese, she was professed a nun, and after continuing in great perfectnesse of observing that profession, she was instituted abbese of her house, shewing still, in trade of life, an orderlie example for her flock to follow."\* Tradition throws an air of greater romance over the landing of Ebba upon our shore, and tells us that when the monks, who officiated in the lone temple, which like the eyry of the eagle, was perched upon that wild mountain-promontory, one stormy day were looking forth upon the raging ocean, they beheld with astonishment her little boat, steered by a helmsman of more than "mortal mould," bounding triumphantly over the tumultuous billows, which threatened every moment to engulf it in their watery abyss, and at length landed her in safety upon the sandy beach a little southward from where St. Abb's now rears its vener-

\* Holinshead's Scottish Chronicle, vol. i. p. 212. Another authority informs us that Ebba was professed a nun by St. Finan, who held the bishopric of Lindisferne between the years 652 and 661; and that Eaden a Scottish king intending to take her to wife by force, she fled to Coldingham Hill, where she was miraculously defended from him for three days by the swelling of the waters below. He adds that with the assistance of her brother Oswy she built another nunnery, near the river Derwant, and from her own name called it Ebbecestre, which like that over which she herself presided, was afterwards destroyed by the heathen Danes, Inguar and Ubba.—Dugdale's Monasticon, vol. i.

able front above the waves. It is generally allowed that the gratitude of the princess to the Deity for her preservation from the fury of her enemies, and from the jaws of the tempest, induced her to devote the remainder of her life and fortune to his service in the nunnery situated near the spot at which she reached the shore. This convent was certainly in existence, and under the superintendence of Ebba some time previous to the installation of St. Cuthbert into the bishopric of Lindisferne—an event which happened in the year 684; for before that time, the fame of that saint's miracles and piety had reached her in her retirement, and prompted by a desire of receiving from him instruction to herself and the inmates of her house, she solicited and obtained a visit from that famed churchman, who then presided over the monastery of Old Melrose \*. Cuthbert had been brought up a shepherd lad among the wilds of Lauderdale, and probably had never before seen the sea, for he had not long remained a visitor of Ebba before he bethought himself of a novel species of religious austerity adapted to the maritime situation in which he then found himself. For it is recorded by the venerable Bede, that during the silent watches of the night, when the greater part of the members of Ebba's convent had retired to their slumbers, the pious Cuthbert used to steal down to the sea, in the waters of which he stood immersed up to the neck engaged in prayer and praises, till the hour for the regular routine of morning devotions in the monastery approached. He used then to emerge from the water, and on bended knee continue some time longer employed in similar exercises upon the shore; during which time a monk, possessed of such a

\* Founded by Aidan the first Bishop of Lindisferne, A. D. 635-52. *Chalmer's Caledonia*, vol. i. 325.

share of curiosity as led him to "dog" the holy father's footsteps with the view of discovering the object of his nocturnal perambulations, and upon whose veritable authority the circumstance is narrated by Bede, beheld two sea calves issue forth from the deep, warm his feet with their breath, and dry them with their skins, after performing which service, and having received the saint's benediction, they once more betook themselves to the ocean! \* Perhaps the recollection of the refreshing penance which the saint here experienced, might have some influence in inducing him soon afterwards to relinquish the fair vale of Melrose for the bleak shores of Lindisferne. This story is of equal authenticity with many other wonderful and absurd stories related of Cuthbert by the same writer, and in after years by the superstitious Reginald; yet there seems to be no reason for doubting the fact of the saint's visit to our monastery, or of his having voluntarily subjected himself to so singular and rigorous a penance. The history of the Anglo-Saxon church abounds with instances of the practice of bodily mortification of equal, if not greater severity. †

\* Bede's *Vita Sancti Cuthberti*, cap. 10.

† St. Cuthbert made frequent visits to Ebba's nunnery both before and after that he had become Bishop of Lindisferne. On one of these occasions the Abbess made him a present of some cloth which was destined in after years to be his shroud. In 1383, Richard de Sedgebroke, on entering upon the office of Keeper of his shrine at Durham, made up a Latin inventory of the articles entrusted to his charge, a copy of which was published inaccurately, according to Mr. Raine, in the Appendix to Dr. Smith's *Bede*. The former has given a translation of this Inventory in his "*St. Cuthbert*," where the following *item* occurs:—"Item, a particle of the cloth which St. Ebba gave to St. Cuthbert, in which he lay 418 years and 5 months, and a part of the *chasuble*, (a close garment reaching from the neck to the knee) in which he lay for eleven years in a corporax case, protected with glass (*glauce stipato*)."

From the inventory of Holy Island made up in 1367, it appears that

In the year 681, the famous virgin-queen Edilthrydā, wife of king Egfrid, retired to our monastery, and there received the veil from the hands of Bishop Wilfrid, who then held the see of Lindisferne. She was the daughter of Anna, queen of the East Angles, and while very young had taken a vow of perpetual virginity, but, by the ambitious policy of her friends, she was compelled to espouse a powerful nobleman, called Tonberct, with whom she continued to live as if she had been unmarried. At his decease she was offered in marriage to the Northumbrian monarch, with whom having preserved the same immaculate life for twelve years, she at length, by the urgency and frequency of her solicitations, obtained her husband's permission to become a nun. She immediately retired northward, with the intention of taking up her abode within the sanctuary of Ebba, and had just reached the promontory upon which it stood, when the king, who had repented of his permission, arrived to carry her off by force. But Providence, according to an authority below quoted, miraculously interposed to prevent the accomplishment of his design. Accompanied by two holy virgins, called Sewenna and Sewara, she ascended the hill of St. Abb's, which was then called Coldburgh Head, and immediately the sea flowed into the deep valley by which it is nearly disjoined from the mainland, and so continued for seven days, when her husband, seeing that the Deity was unfavourable to his purpose, abandoned it and retired to York. \*

there was preserved in that Abbey "one Book of Sentences belonging to the Priory of Coldingham *cecum titulo Sanctæ Ebbæ de Coldingham*," St. Cuthbert, p. 123.—North Durham, 105.

\* See Bede, lib. iv. cap. 19.—Chronicon Johannis Brompton, p. 790. Twysden's *Anglicanæ Scriptores*, and in the *Liber Eliensis*, the following excerpt, relative to the above, was procured for me by Sir John Hall, Bart. from the Rev. G. Millers, Librarian to the Dean and Chapter of

The novice continued to receive the instructions of Ebba for twelve months, at the expiry of which time she took farewell of her and retired to Ely, where she erected a monastery of which she became Abbess; and during the remainder of her life applied herself so assiduously to the duties of her high office, that she was canonized after her death by the name of St. Edilthryd. Bede records, as peculiarities belonging to this singular female, that after she had become a recluse, she abandoned the garments of linen with which she had previously been wont to attire herself, and ever after

Ely. "Instat enim rex in matrimonio cupiens eam resumere non omittens prosequi, si forte valeat comprehendere, sed santimonialis femina gemens et anxia nec geminato timore dulcis latebras coacta fugit et exiit; dominoque suam intentius pudicitiam commendavit. Et digressa clam ambitum loci cum duabus Dei ancillis Sewenna et Sewara collem eminentem prope qui Coldeburgheshend quod latine caput coldeburci dicitur adiit et ascendit. Sed Deus qui ventis et mari imperat et obediunt ei, non derelinquit sperantes in se. Illius jussu credimus, quod mare suum alveum egrediens nec aquas multipliciter effundens locum in quem sacri virgines ascenderant circumdedit, et sicut ab incolis loci accipimus per septem continuos dies sine cibo et potu in aratione consistentes eas occaluit, et quod mirabile dictu est solitos recursus oblivescens quamdiu rex illic aut penes locum morabatur. Stetit itaque aqua ad ostendendum cunctis virgines meritum, et aqua erat ad adjutorium et ad tuendum et quasi aqua noti erat ad nocendum sive disperdendum. Taliter ancilla Christi munita presidio evasit minas regis nec sensit quandoque lesionem ab eo. Nam tulit anseclium dominus miserator egentium atque suam sponsam clementes dextri clipeo protexit inermem. In memento enim locus secretus et subito permenitus gratia Dei factus est ut ex uno latere montis de medio percisa excelsa rupes haberetur et equam planitiem mares fluctus reducto paululum sinu ostenderent ut nec ad evadendum hostem vasta heremum solitudo peteretur: Per crebuit fama undique hujus rei ac tanti miraculi; et timuerunt qui viderant vel audierant cognoscentes dominum vigentem esse protectorem ejus. Cumque diutius essent in supremo rupis acumine et aquarum multitudine undique circumdati, sed qua parte eas posse rex aggredi nequaquam invenisset tandem nihil ominis factum admirans in stuporem versus de loco recesset et eboracum rediit."

wore those only which were made of woollen cloth, and that she never allowed herself to enjoy the luxury of the warm-bath, except at the approach of some of the most important festivals of the church, such as the Passover, Pentecost, and the Epiphany; and such was her humility, that she only did so when she had seen the other members of the sisterhood perform the ablution before her. He informs us also, that during his time her body remained uncorrupted in the tomb, which he considers as an indisputable evidence of the purity of its owner when living, independant of the testimony of bishop Wilfrid himself, who had personally related to him the virtues of her character. \*

When Egfrid found it expedient to abandon his consort to the mode of life which she had adopted, he resolved to wreak his vengeance upon the prelate Wilfrid, whom he considered had been instrumental in persuading Edilthryda to turn nun. He, accordingly, ejected him from his diocese, and installed the monk Eadbert in his office. The impoverished Wilfrid in vain applied to the Pope Agatha for redress of his grievances, and obtained a declaration in his favour. The king and his counsellors rejected the latter with the utmost disdain, and to put an end to his remonstrances, threw the petitioner into prison. He then gave up all hopes of persuading his consort to recant, and married a new queen, Ermenburga, accompanied by whom he shortly afterwards set out on a tour through his dominions. In the course of their pro-

\* See Bede, lib. iv. cap. 19, 25. The venerable historian wrote some verses in honour of Edilthryda, which are rather curious specimens of the artifices of composition in use at the time when he wrote. They are composed of Hexameters and Pentameters, each of the lines of the latter measurement ending with three or four of the words which commence the preceding Hexameter. The sentiments are but indifferent.



gress they came to our monastery, and took up their abode. During the night time the new queen received, it is said, a severe whipping from the devil, and on the following morning, was found lying convulsed and ready to expire. Their hostess Ebba, assured her nephew that the peculiar castigation to which his consort had been subjected, was a providential punishment for his having incarcerated, and otherwise maltreated the pious Wilfrid. Concerned for the safety of his queen, Egfrid gave orders for the immediate liberation of the bishop, and for the restoration of a bag of relics, which the suffering princess had stolen from him, upon which she was restored to her accustomed state of health.\* We are not bold enough to aver that at the time when the event just noticed is said to have occurred, "he of the cloven foot" had discontinued his personal visitations to this nether world, but are rather inclined to attribute the sufferings endured by her majesty, to the torturing demon of her own evil conscience, or to a stratagem of some of the monks or nuns, who intruded themselves into her chamber during the dark hour of night, and flagellated her with a view of obtaining the release of their brother ecclesiastic.

During the time of Ebba, there lived in the monastery, a pious monk named Adamnan, a native of Scotland, who spent the greater part of his time in the performance of religious exercises. When a very young man, he had committed a crime for which he had afterwards suffered the most horrible remorse of conscience, under the influence of which he went to a priest for the purpose of making a confession. Having

\* Bede Vit. St. Cuth. cap. 10. Id. Ecclesiast. Hist. lib. iv. cap. 19. Life of Bishop Wilfrid by Eddius, in the Anglicanæ Scriptores, "De Regina flagilata et Sanata."

done so, the confessor said to him, "A severe wound demands a severe remedy; therefore to as many fastings, psalms and prayers as you are able to perform, subject yourself, and you may yet deserve to find the countenance of the Lord propitious to you." Adamnan, desiring to be relieved as quickly as possible from the upbraidings of the inward monitor, replied, "I am still a very young man, and my body is strong; whatever you may enjoin upon me, providing only that I shall be safe on the day of the Lord, that will I easily endure, even though I should spend the whole night standing at my prayers, and though you should order me to spend the whole seven days of the week in fasting." "Seven days," rejoined the priest, "is rather a long time for you to want food; it will be sufficient for you to observe a fast of two or three days at a time. Do that for a short period, and I will return and point out to you what you should next do, and what measure of penance you ought to undergo." The confessor then left him, and soon afterwards, upon some urgent business, withdrew to Ireland, whence he never returned. Adamnan continued to taste food only twice a week, and often spent the whole of the night in vigils and prayer, and, in course of time, the ordeal which had been imposed upon him as a punishment for his delinquencies, became, from the effect of habit, essential to his existence. It happened one day, that having travelled to a considerable distance from the convent in company with a brother monk, on their return, when they came in sight of the lofty walls of the monastery, (*ædificia illius sublimiter erecta*) his countenance became sorrowful, and he began to shed tears. His companion observing this, enquired the cause. "The time," said he, "is fast approaching, when a devouring fire shall consume to ashes all those fine

public and private buildings which you now behold." On entering the convent, the other monk went to Ebba, and informed her of the prophecy which he had just heard uttered. The pious lady was of course much alarmed, and sent for Adamnan, who addressed her as follows :—" Being busily occupied of late in vigils and in the singing of psalms, I one night suddenly beheld a man of a strange countenance standing by my side, and I became much afraid at the sight, when he said to me in a familiar voice,—“ Be not afraid, you do right when you prefer spending the night in watching and praise-giving, to indulging in repose and slumber.” “ I know,” said Adamnan to his mysterious visitant, “ that it is very necessary for me to apply myself to salutary vigils, and from the Lord continually to supplicate forgiveness for my sins.” The other rejoined, “ You say true ; for it is necessary for you and many others to make amends for your sins by good works, and after the conclusion of secular business, to labour hard for the enjoyment of eternal happiness. This, however, is done by very few. Indeed, I have now strictly examined the apartments and beds of this monastery, and none save yourself alone, have I found engaged about the salvation of their soul, but all of them, both men and women, are either sound asleep, or are awake in the commission of sin. For, every night the cells which were consecrated to prayer and study, are employed for eating, drinking, gossiping and other flagrant improprieties. The nuns, regardless of their vow, as soon as they are at leisure, spend their time in weaving fine garments, with which, like brides, they deck themselves, and expose their persons to peril, or court the acquaintanceship of stranger men. Wherefore, dire vengeance in raging flames from heaven is preparing for this place and its inhabitants.” Ebba ask-

ing Adamnan why he had not made known to her his discovery sooner, he told her that the catastrophe was not to take place till after her death, and that he did not wish to alarm her by communicating such awful intelligence. For a few days, after these tidings were proclaimed to them, the monks and nuns were greatly afraid, and subjected themselves to various mortifications of the flesh; but they soon returned to the commission of their former enormities, and after the death of Ebba, in the year 679, their convent was, through carelessness, consumed by fire. \*

All these circumstances, Bede tells us, he heard from a monk named Aedgils, who lived at Coldingham at the time of their occurrence, and whom he styles his *most reverent co-presbyter*. He, with many other members of the convent, after that unfortunate event, had retired to Durham, where he officiated for some time previous to his death. "These things," says the venerable annalist, "we thought should be inserted in our history, that we might remind the reader of the works of the Lord, how terrible he is in counsel upon the children of men, lest his wrath should at any time suddenly overtake us when following after the lusts of the flesh, rather than fearing his judgments."

Such is a narrative characteristic of the age, when there is little doubt its incidents obtained implicit credence not only from Bede, but most of his credulous

\* "A. D. MDCLXXIX. His temporibus monasterium virginum quod Coludi urbem cognominant, per culpam incuriæ flammis absumptum est. Quod tamen a malitia inhabitantium in eo, et precipuè illorum qui majores esse videbantur contigisse, omnes qui novere facillime potuerunt advertere. Sed non defuit puniendis admonitio divinæ pietatis, qua correcti, per jejunia, fletus et preces iram a se, instar Ninivitarum justî Judicis averterent."—Bede's Eccles. Hist. lib. iv. cap. 25. Dugdale's Monasticon, vol. i. p. 90.

contemporaries. At the present enlightened period, the story may meet with a very different reception. The fact, however, of the monastery having fallen a sacrifice to the wickedness of its inmates, at the period alluded to, may not on that account be devoid of authenticity. We may even venture farther, and suppose, without exceeding the bounds of probability, that the destruction of the edifice was actually foretold to Adamnan, not, however, by a supernatural agent from heaven, but by one of the monks of the establishment; who had himself resolved to punish the fraternity for the crimes which he daily beheld them committing. Speaking of the prophecy, Adamnan informs us that the person who uttered it addressed him in a *familiar voice*—a circumstance which may, perhaps, afford some grounds for this supposition.

Before its fulfilment, its virtuous abbess had bid adieu to the world, and soon afterwards received for her piety a distinguished place in the calendar of the saints. Her remains were interred in a cemetery adjacent to the monastery over which, during her lifetime, she had presided. Here they remained undisturbed till the twelfth century, when a monk of Durham, called Elfred Westoue, proceeded on a journey through the districts of Northumberland and Lothian, and raised from their sepulchres some of the bones of the greater part of the saints and bishops. In the course of his peregrinations he visited the tomb of Ebba, and carried off with him to Durham some of her bones, which he deposited in the shrine of St. Cuthbert. \*

\* Mr. Raine, on the authority of the Durham MS. preserved in the Library of the Dean and Chapter of York, Tr. iii. fol. 13. remarks, that Ebba's bones were found in the coffin of St. Cuthbert about the year 1200. It contained also the bones of Bilfred and Balther, the hermit of Tynningham, who died in 757, the head of King Ceolwolf, and the bones and hair of St. Edelwald the priest, who succeeded

The deplorable fate which had befallen our convent, and which was commonly considered to be a direct judgment from heaven, led St. Cuthbert, upon his being consecrated bishop of Lindisferne, for the future prevention of too intimate an intercourse between the monks and nuns, to prohibit the latter entering in future the churches where the former worshipped, and heavy penalties were in after years exacted from such as dared to violate this injunction. \*

St. Cuthbert at Farne. Hegge in his legend of the Saint says, "In an old manuscript of a monke of Durham, I find a catalogue of the reliques of this Abbey, which were so many, that it seemed a charnell howse of saints' bones; for hence at the resurrection St. Stephen will fetch his tooth, Zachary a leg, Simeon an arme, St. Christopher an elbow, St. Lawrence a finger, St. Ambrose some of his haire, *St. Ebbe her foote*, with many more; besides a whole wardrobe of saints' apparell, both coats and hoods, and stockings of the apostles, with diverse fractions of the crosse and the sacred sepulchre." Raines' St. Cuthbert, pp. 79. 121.

\* Simeon Dunelm. Hist. Eccles. Dun, lib. ii. cap. 7, 8, 9. Leland's Collectanea, vol. ii. p. 330. "Monachi et sacræ virgines in ecclesia de Coldingham non sine scandalo. Unde in insula Lindisferne facta ecclesia, quæ linguâ indigenorum Grenekirk, id est, viridis ecclesia appellatur eo quod in campi virentis planitie sita est. Jussit St. Cuthbert ut illo missas et verbum Dei audituræ convenerent, ne proprius ecclesiam in qua ipse cum monachis diversabatur, accederent." Reginald of Coldingham relates a rather ludicrous story of a female who had the audacity to intrude herself in the Cathedral of Durham. It appears that David, King of Scots, having married Maud, daughter of Simon St. Liz, Earl of Huntingdon, halted on his return from England with his bridal party at Durham. On the following morning the young queen, anxious to view the interior of the church, had proceeded to the church-yard, beyond which she was told that no female was allowed by the Saint to pass with impunity. The princess good humouredly turned back, but her chambermaid, Helisland, who, he tells us, was the most skilful embroiderer and weaver of purple in the kingdom, resolved to attire herself in the garb of a monk, and obtain a peep of the church. She thus got herself introduced within the building, but immediately became horrified at what she had done. The Saint

It is uncertain whether the monastery, the destruction of which we are about to notice, was erected on the ruins of the former one upon St. Abb's, or on the more inland spot now occupied by the ruins of the priory. A circumstance afterwards to be noticed, inclines us to the latter supposition. When the building was repaired, or a new one erected, is also unknown; and indeed the only notice taken of it which informs us of its having existed, is that by Matthew of Westminster, when he intimates the catastrophe which befell it, and its inhabitants. According to that annalist, in the year 870, Inguar and Hubba, two Danish chieftains, with an im-

was not long in detecting the trick which had been played upon him. He immediately got up from his coffin, and hastened to the Sacrist, and in language much coarser than might have been expected from his Saintship, thus broke forth:—"Vade quam citius et lacissam illam quæ ecclesiæ meæ limina progrediendo sædavit—sub festinatione projiciendo expelle; fetoris enim ejus spurcitia per orbita ecclesiæ meae progreditur, fumoque pedoris illius aula meae quietis laesa coinquinatur, nec quietis requiem in loco pacis meae habere hic valeo, quamdiu lacissae ipsius immunditiae odorem sentio, unde quam maturius eam quaerendo progredere, lacissamque illam omnis immunditiae contagione foetentem de ecclesiæ meae abjiciendo finibus expelle; non enim ipsius presumptionis insidiae temerariae latere me poterant, quae mox ad sui introitum cuncta ecclesiæ meae interioris aera fetoris suae nubibus circumquaque consperserant." The Sacrist immediately proceeded to execute the Saint's commands, and used the following fine specimen of abusive language, as he thrust poor Helisland from the sanctuary:—"Pro dolor! tune es illa lacissa pedoris, canicula spurcitiae putredinis, nubes iniquae bajulationis, caligo fuliginis, umbra fetoris, discipula iniquitatis, laqueus foeditatis, cloaca corruptionis? nunquid tu furiosa Dei sanctuarium prophanasti, loca sancta et nitida polluisti, beatum Cuthbertum Dei contemplatione soporatum inquietando suscitasti, celestibus impeditum negotiis fatigando incursare praesumpstisti? Vere tu es quae sacris ipsius naribus foetoris putredinem ingessisti, et hanc beatitudinis aulam spurcitiae immunditiae inquinasti." The girl afterwards endeavoured to make amends for her audacity, by taking the veil in the convent of Elstow, near Bedford.—*Libel. Reginaldi de Col-dingham*, cap. 74.

mense fleet, made a descent upon our shores, with the design of punishing Edmond, king of the East Angles, whom they unjustly charged with the murder of their intrepid father, Ragnor Lodbrog. They were driven ashore, by the prevalence of contrary winds, at Berwick, and immediately proceeded to spread devastation and bloodshed over the surrounding country. The superior of our nunnery, who also bore the venerated name of Ebba, having heard of their landing, summoned the sisterhood to her presence, and told them of the danger to which their chastity would be exposed; but at the same time informed them that she had devised a plan, by following which it might be averted. The nuns readily agreed to act as their virtuous abbess might be pleased to dictate; on that assurance, Ebba pulled out a sharp knife or razor, and in their presence cut off her nose and upper lip, and the same hideous operation was immediately performed by her disciples. The magnanimous lady's forebodings were too soon to be realized; for, on the following morning the invaders arrived at the monastery, and their lust being converted into fury on beholding their yet bloody and mutilated countenances, they set fire to the convent, and its chaste inhabitants were consumed in the destructive conflagration. The monk further informs us, that the barbarians were not satisfied with committing this horrid act of cruelty, but sailed southward along the coast, and burnt the convents of Lindisferne, Tyne-mouth, Jarrow, Wearmouth and Streoneshalh, murdering the inhabitants of the neighbouring districts, and devastating whatever happened to come before them.\*

Neither the fate of Coldingham or of the other monasteries is mentioned by Simeon of Durham, or the

\* Matthew of Westminster, p. 313.



other Saxon chroniclers, as having taken place in the year 870. The ravages of Inguar and Hubba are usually stated to have occurred three years previously, and Reginald describes minutely a direful inroad of the Danes as having happened in the year 875.\* Thus there may be a doubt entertained, whether the year specified by Matthew of Westminster, may have been that which witnessed the destruction of our nunnery; though the occurrence of the event itself is by no means improbable. His story of the spontaneous disfigurement of the sisterhood, would require to be corroborated by a less credulous historian before it is believed.†

These, then, are the chief events with which history or fable have furnished us concerning this ancient religious establishment. The conflagrations which it underwent, were probably not more destructive to the building and its occupants than to its records, which

\* "Anno ab incarnatione Domini DCCCLXXV transacto, contigit Angliæ fines latâ strage vastari, et saeviente pyratum predonumque mucrone populos circumquaque et internecione deficiendo deperire. Nam civitatis ignibus conflagrando consumebant, ecclesias et cymiteria multimodis sacrilegiorum pollutionibus prophanabant, puerperia de materno uteri gremio excidebant, infantulos jaculis, spiculis et hastis transfodientibus lanceabant, nec ætati vel ordini parcendum deliberabant."—Lib. Reginaldi de Coldingham, cap. 14.

† As a proof of Matthew's credulity, we may mention, that he relates the still more wonderful story of King Edmund's martyrdom without a passing stricture. He tells us, that the Danes after having beheaded that prince, threw his head into a thicket. After their departure, some of his followers began to search for the head, which they had continued for some time doing unsuccessfully; when, wonderful to tell! the head itself cried out from the thicket, "Here! Here! Here!" On reaching the spot whence the voice proceeded, to their great amazement they found a wolf holding the head in its paws. The beast on their approach presented the treasure to them, and while they bore it to the grave, followed behind them as one of the mourners!!!—Matthew of Westminster, p. 320.

might otherwise have been handed down a literary treasure to posterity. For, the trivial notices which we have been enabled to lay before the reader depend upon the testimony of contemporary and succeeding monkish annalists, who, in too many instances, gave a licence to their imagination, alike inconsistent with the rules of the historiographer, or with the spirit of that religion to whose duties they professed to dedicate their lives.

The original colony of monks and nuns is supposed to have been transported to St. Abb's from the monasteries of Lindisferne or Whitby, though there is no evidence of this being the case, except that both of these convents were in existence before its foundation. Nor is the circumstance noticed by Raine or Young, who have learnedly investigated the ancient history of these abbies. The first of our nunneries, or that which was *accidentally* consumed by fire, belonged to that species of religious institutions called *double monasteries*, or, in other words, it consisted of two buildings, one of which was exclusively devoted to monks, the other to nuns, with an abbess presiding over both. All intercourse was strictly prohibited between the recluses of different sexes, nor were they even allowed to appear together underneath the same roof, excepting only when the priest met the sisterhood in the church for the purpose of celebrating mass at the altar. Such was the strictness of their regulations in this respect, that the abbess herself, when occasion demanded that she should communicate with the male part of the community, delivered her instructions, or listened to their applications, at one of the windows of the abbey. This system of discipline, though it debarred the one sex from enjoying the society of the other, still permitted both parties to contribute to each other's comfort and prosperity; for

while the monks carried on the operations of husbandry and other mechanical employments that required great exertion and strength, the nuns repaid them by services more peculiarly feminine. According to Lingard, double monasteries were abundantly diffused over France by St. Columban, and, from the religious institutions of that country having long been a favourite resort of the Saxon ladies, he considers that they had been thence introduced into our island. It is certain that the greater part, if not all of the English monasteries, were modelled originally after that system; nor is there a single instance on record, with the exception of our nunnery alone, of the prescribed regulations being infringed upon by an illegitimate intercourse between their inhabitants. \*

These circumstances considered, it is natural to suppose that the aid of one of the monks endowed with superior qualifications, would be employed by the abbess, as her deputy, in superintending that part of the establishment which was devoted exclusively to the monks, though a personage dignified with the name of prior does not appear in the history of any of the double monasteries.

The convent described by Matthew of Westminster as burnt by the Danes, seems to have been among the first of the Saxon monasteries which were tenanted solely by females. Had it still continued to have been a double monastery, the monks would have necessarily been obliged to act a part in the dreadful tragedy, and would consequently have been alluded to by the analist when he related it.

Respecting the architecture of these buildings but

\* Bede Eccles. Hist. lib. iv. cap. 25. Id. iii. cap. 11. Vit. Cuthb. cap. 24. Vit. St. Liobae, p. 226. Lingard's History of Anglo-Saxon Church, p. 120.

little can be said, as they were erected in an age when stone structures were almost entirely unknown. Like the other religious houses of the period, their form and structure were probably extremely simple—their walls being composed of upright pieces of timber, externally coated with mud, and their roofs thatched with heather from the neighbouring moorlands. The ruins which, till within these few years, crowned the summit of the promontory of St. Abb's, can scarcely therefore be deemed the remains of the infant establishment, though this is the popular belief. They are more probably the remains of a small cell and chapel subordinate to the priory, and erected at a more recent period; the latter of which, from the name of the saint to whom it was dedicated, and from the circumstance of its occupying the site of the original edifice, has continued, during succeeding centuries down to the present day, to be called *St. Abb's Kirk*. The walls of this chapel, and a small Saxon arch, were to be seen till within these few years, between three and four feet in height, upon an elevated mound near the eastern extremity of the wild headland, and close to the very verge of the precipice. These ruins were surrounded by a small cemetery, containing several humble and time-defaced monuments. At a little distance westward, upon a sort of peninsular neck of rock, the precipitous margins of which appear, from remains still visible, to have been fortified by a strong stone wall, the foundations of a building of considerable extent are still traceable, which has probably been the cell to which we have alluded, and the habitation of the monks whose duty it was to officiate in the adjacent chapel. The bed of the deep valley which intervenes between the promontory and the mainland, was formerly an impassable quagmire; and in making an attempt to drain it

about forty years ago, several fragments of oaken timber were dug up, which are supposed to have been the landstools of a draw-bridge by which it had been crossed. An eminence on the landward side of the morass, still goes by the name of the Bell Hill, a name which it probably derived from a signal-bell having, in ancient times, been suspended upon it, either as a means of letting the inhabitants of the convent know when the draw-bridge was in requisition, or of summoning the people in the neighbourhood to pray for the soul of a departed monk or nun.

A more retired and picturesque situation for a convent of religious devotees, cannot well be conceived. The wild and stormy ocean, raging with the noise of thunder among the caverns below, would perpetually remind them of the jarring and tumult of that world from which they had estranged themselves; and, looking forth from their solitude upon the distant isle of Lindisferne—the scene of kindred labours—they would be stimulated to greater exertions in their works of pious devotion.

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## HISTORY OF THE PRIORY.

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THE monastic establishment, whose history is now about to be investigated, differed essentially from the convents already noticed, in its being exclusively devoted to the reception of monks. It owed its foundation to the pious gratitude of king Edgar of Scotland, for the victory which he gained over Donald the usurper, and by which he was seated securely upon the throne of his fathers. There is a legendary story re-

lated by Fordun in his Chronicle, that as Edgar, with the auxiliary forces which had been supplied to him by William Rufus, was marching toward Scotland, with the intention of wresting the sceptre from his adversary, he rested at Durham, where, during the night, he received a visit from St. Cuthbert, who encouraged him in his enterprise, and assured him, that if he caused his banner to be carried along with him in the van of his army, his enemies at the sight of the sacred ensign would flee in terror before him. Edgar, accordingly, on the following morning, obtained from the monastery the banner of the saint, and having displayed it as he had been directed, the result corresponded with the prediction. The soldiery of Donald's army deserted to the side of him whom they had been led forth to oppose. The usurper himself was taken prisoner, and his eyes being put out, he was consigned to a dungeon for the brief remainder of his life. To the assistance which the king conceived himself to have received from the saint, the foundation and ample endowment of our priory is usually ascribed.\*

\* Fordun's *Scotichronicon*, vol. i. The efficacy supposed to be exerted by carrying the saint's banner before an army to the field, is doubtless attributable to the superstitious character of the minds of the soldiery, who would shudder at the idea of opposing an army marshalled, as it were, under the auspices of the saint. This practice was by no means rare, for the standard of St. John of Beverley was triumphantly borne in front of the army of Edward I. when he marched northward to subjugate Scotland; and the identical banner of St. Cuthbert, above mentioned, was supposed to have contributed to the success of the English forces under Lord Neville, in 1346, at the battle of Neville's Cross. There is a story, that the saint appeared to John Fosse, the Prior of Durham, on the night previous to that conflict, and admonished him to fix the standard upon the point of a spear; and, during the continuance of the conflict, to hold it in view of the contending armies.

Its erection was begun immediately after his accession to the throne, while feelings of gratitude glowed vividly within his breast. His endowment charters bear no date, but from the fact of his having commenced his reign in 1098, and from one of them being granted during the life-time of William Rufus, who died two years afterwards, its foundation must have been intermediate to these years.

A detachment of Benedictine monks was transported to it from St. Cuthbert's cathedral of Durham, as soon as the building had been so far completed as to admit of accommodating them. These monks had but a few years previous (1082) been introduced into that church from the monasteries of Jarrow and Wearmouth, on the expulsion of the secular clergy by bishop William Carilepho. The order of monkhood to which they belonged was one of the strictest, and the penalties exacted for derelictions of duty, and the actual commission of offences, equalled in severity those of any of the other religious fraternities in Christendom. The black habit which they wore, procured for them the designation of *black monks*—a name which also served to distinguish them from their brethren of the Cistercian order, who, from the colour of their robes, acquired the title of *monachi albi*. Their dress consisted of a long flowing robe or gown, surmounted by a cowl or hood, both constructed of black cloth.

Their canonical hours on ordinary days were seven in number, but on festival occasions a much greater space of time was devoted to the services of the church. The first of these exercises, called the *lauds* or *matins*, was performed when the abbey-bell proclaimed the hour of midnight, and a similar service called the *complin*, at seven in the evening, concluded the exercises of the day. If a monk happened to die early in the

morning, he was interred either in the after part of the same day, or on that which followed. On the breast of the deceased were laid a written absolution, as his passport to heaven, a candle, crucifix, a censer filled with incense, and other ensigns of superstition. Mass was said for his soul for thirty days after his death, his grave daily sprinkled with holy water, and his usual allotment of victuals consigned to the almoner for distribution among the poor. Temperance, and occasional fastings for the mortification of the flesh, were also enjoined by the rules of St. Benedict; but these they do not appear to have adhered to very strictly, for, as will be hereafter shown, gluttony and drunkenness were vices among them by no means rare. \* In short, like the brethren of a neighbouring border convent, the monks of Coldingham

“ Made guid kail  
On Fridays when they fasted,  
Nor wanted either beef or ale  
As lang as their neighbours’ lasted.”

In order to become a monk, it was necessary that the candidate should first secure the interest of some influential individual connected with the monastery, or should deposit in the hands of the treasurer a certain sum of money, which, upon his admission, was devoted to the support of the establishment. Candidates for the office were not eligible under eighteen years of age, and required to undergo a year’s preparatory instruction from an individual, who, from his office, was called the *master of the novices*, before they were allowed

\* Spotiswood’s Scottish Religious Houses in Appendix to Hope’s Minor Practicks. Wardrobe’s Causes of the Downfall of the Romish Church, p. 106. Young’s History of Whitby, vol. i. p. 399. Wilkin’s Concilia, vol. i. p. 593.



to assume the monkish habit. During the time of their novitiate, they were also taught by the precentor how to chant the anthems and hymns. While some of the monks employed those hours which they could spare from their devotional exercises, in the cultivation of their gardens, and in the pursuits of agriculture, there were others who applied themselves to study and writing; and so early as the twelfth century, two of the Coldingham monks signalized themselves by the composition of historical works, which are preserved and valued at the present day.

During the fourteenth century, literature became even more extensively cultivated in the Benedictine monasteries, an improvement which was in a great measure owing to the wise enactments of the Popes Clement V. and Benedict XII., which provided, that no candidates should be admitted upon their novitiate, except such as exhibited qualifications natural or acquired, which were deemed necessary to a proper discharge of monastic duties, and that one out of every twenty of them should be sent to a university to prosecute the study of the canon law, and during the time of his studentship be supported at the expence of the monastery.

King Edgar attended personally in the church on the day of its consecration to the three saints, Cuthbert, Mary, and Ebba, which, in his charter, he informs us, was performed in a manner acceptable *to the glory of God and his own pleasure.* \* At the altar he endowed

\* Andrew Winton in his "Cronykil," at page 275, thus quaintly notices the foundation of our monastery by Edgar:

"Coldyngame than foundyd he  
And rychely gert it dowyt be  
Of Saynt Ebb a sweet Hallow,  
Saynt Cuthbert thair thai honowre now."

it with the whole village of Swinton, according to the same boundaries by which the Saxon Liulf held it; and this they were to enjoy for ever, *exempt from all claims, and disposable solely at the pleasure of St. Cuthbert's monks*. He at the same time bestowed upon them *twenty-four beasts for re-cultivating the land of Swinton*,\* and established the same terms of peace in going to and returning from Coldingham, as was observed at Lindisferne and Norham.† He further enjoined, that the inhabitants of Coldinghamshire should pay a yearly tribute to the monks of half a merk of silver for every carucate‡ of land which they possessed. All these donations, he says, he made for the souls of his father and mother, for the salvation of his own soul, and that of his brothers and sisters.

Among the witnesses to this charter are Thor Longus, of whom notice will be shortly taken; Ælfrie the

\* *Ad restaurandam illam eandem terram*—the words of the Charter seem to imply the restoration of the land to its former state of tillage, which had probably been much neglected during the devastatory reigns of Malcolm Canmore and his predecessors.

† Those who fled to the churches of St. Cuthbert for protection, were allowed to remain unmolested for the term of thirty-seven days, a regulation which prevented a pursuer from wreaking his vengeance upon the head of a fugitive in the heat of passion, and afforded both parties an opportunity of bringing forward evidence of guilt or innocence.—Wharton's *Anglia Sacra*, vol. i. p. 699.

‡ Considerable diversity of opinion exists, as to the extent of a *carucate* of land. According to Chalmers it means as much as can be turned over by one plough in the course of a year. Dugdale makes it ten, and Skene thirteen acres. According to Spelman and Ducange, a carucate contained eight bovates or oxgangs, and eight carucates made up a knight's fee. In a survey of lands belonging to the Abbey of Skirpenbeck, made in the year 1446, is the following statement, noticed in Young's *History of Whitby*, vol. i. p. 270. "*In this town ten carucates make a knight's fee, and eight or ten oxgangs make a carucate of land, and twelve acres make an oxgang of land.*" Hence we may conclude, that a carucate varied in extent at different places.

butler, Algar and Osbern, priests, Ligulf of Bamburgh—men of whose history little or nothing is known.

By two distinct charters he bestowed upon them *Paxton*, with the *men*, \* *lands* and *waters*, with the territory extending between Cnapdean and Horndean.

Along with Coldingham, he granted by another charter to St. Cuthbert and his monks, the *mansions* or villages of Aldcambus, Lumsdean, Renton, Reston, Swinewood, two places called Eiton (now Ayton), Prenderguest, Farndun and Cramesmuth, with their lands, woods, waters, tolls, wrecks of ships, and all dues belonging to them, to be held ever afterwards at their free disposal. †

He then made a more ample donation to the monks of St. Cuthbert, of which the members of our monastery shared the profits, viz. the *mansions* of Berwick, Greiden, Leinhalle, Dilsterhalle, Brygham, Edrem, Chirnesid, Hilton, Blakedir, Chynbrygham, Hutton, Fulden, Morthyngton, two places called Lamber-

\* *Hominibus*. The inhabitants were in olden times bought, sold, and disposed of with the land, as constituting part of itself. In old documents they are constantly occurring, under the names of villanes, drengi, homagii, bondi, husbandii, &c. Their children, and whatever property belonged to them, were equally disposable at the will of the lord of the manor. Thus, in a charter quoted in Young's work, we find Theobald de Lascelles granting to the priory of Guisbrough, "Robert the son of Ketell, Godwin, the overseer, Ervise the son of Aslac, Alice the wife of Serlo, &c. with their offspring and effects." At such a statement the reader may well stare.

† The places here enumerated are situated within Coldinghamshire, and with the exception of the two last still retain the same names. Cramemouth appears to have been the small creek or fishing village on the coast, situate at the junction of the parishes of Ayton and Lamberton, now called Burnmouth. One of the creeks through which the fishermen's boats are drawn up, is still known by the name of *Cramsmoo*, though it is more commonly designated Johnston's Haven. Farndun was probably on the site of the places called Farnyside or Farnycastle, in the parishes of Ayton and Coldingham.

ton, Hadrington, Ffyschewike, Horford, Vpsetinton, and Hadynton, with the usual immunities and privileges.\* In the preamble to this charter, Edgar plainly acknowledges the feudal tenure by which he held Londonium or Lothian from William Rufus, king of England, respecting which there has been so much controversial discussion between the Scottish and English historians. A supplement informs us, that it was granted on the fourth of the calends of September of that year, in which "King William, son of the great King William," built a new fortress near Bamburgh, against Robert, Earl of Northumberland. The donation was made "for the souls of his father and mother, his own soul and body, and the souls of his brothers, Edward and Duncan."†

At the death of this munificent prince, Thor Longus, a Saxon follower, who had received from him a grant

\* Greiden, Graden, or Kers-field, is situated upon the Tweed, about three miles below Coldstream, and is now the property of Rear-Admiral Sir David Milne, K. C. B. Leinhalle and Dilsterhalle are probably the places called Lennel and Darnchester in Coldstream parish, though we can only come to this conclusion with regard to the latter, by comparing it with the word Dilchestre, which occurs in another charter, in which an enumeration of the same places occurs. Chynbrygham is doubtless the modern Kimmergham in Edrom parish, and the *aliam* Lamberton of the original charter was probably the Parva Lamberton noticed in a former page; Hadrington, the modern Edrington on the Whitadder; Fyschewike and Vpsetinton *hodie* Fishwick and Upsettlington, both places on the Scottish banks of the Tweed, are remarkable for the manner in which they are spelt. Horford was either Horn-dean, already noticed, or a place situated near the confluence of the *Horn-burn* with the Eye, at the eastern extremity of Billy morass; and Hadynton seems to have indicated the modern Edington in Chirnside parish.

† Edgar's elder brother Edward was slain with his father Malcolm Canmore at the siege of Alnwick Castle, in 1093; and his natural brother Duncan, who, after having aided in the expulsion of the usurper Donald, had himself usurped the throne of his father's legitimate children, was treacherously slain by Malpedir, the Thane of Mearns.

of Ednam in Roxburghshire, imitated his sovereign's example of liberality to the monks. The charter is so singular, that we cannot refrain from presenting the reader with a literal translation of it. It is as follows:—

“Unto all the sons of Holy Mother Church, Thor Longus greeting in the Lord. Know ye that Edgar my lord hath given me CEdnaham, a desert, which I have peopled by his assistance and my own money, and (there) erected a church in honour of St. Cuthbert, which church, with one ploughgate of land, I have given to be possessed by God, St. Cuthbert and his monks for ever. This donation I have made for the soul of my lord king Edgar, and for the souls of his father and mother, and for the salvation of his brothers and sisters, and the redemption of my well-beloved brother Lefwin, and for the safety of my own soul and body. And if any one shall presume, by any force or fraud, to take this my gift from the aforesaid saint, and the monks who serve him, may God Almighty take from him the life of the heavenly kingdom, and may he endure eternal punishment with the devil and his angels. Amen.”

The charters of Edgar's brother and successor Alexander, surnamed the Fierce, are three in number, and are merely confirmations of the grants already noticed. The donation of the land between Horndean and Cnapdean, and of Swinton, are specially adverted to, and the Prior and monks are prohibited from engaging in any pleas respecting the latter, without previously receiving his sanction, either personally or by letter.

David, Prince of Cumberland and Earl of Northumberland, in 1124, ascended the throne, left vacant by the decease of his brother Alexander. Notwithstanding that he was engaged, during a great part of his

reign, in wars with England, this illustrious monarch has immortalized his name by the zeal which he displayed in the erection and endowment of religious houses throughout his kingdom. In his liberality in this respect, there is no reason to doubt but that he was actuated by motives of piety, and a sincere desire for the promulgation of religious duties and observances among his semi-barbarous subjects; yet in an age of war, such as that in which he wielded the sceptre, when ecclesiastic possessions were the only species of property that was respected by an invading army, no bad system of civil policy might have induced him to pursue the same course. During his brother's life-time, he began his career of pious munificence, by founding the monastery of Selkirk, and confirming some of the donations made to that of Coldingham; and in the course of his reign were reared, under his auspices, the abbeys of Holyrood, Melrose, Dryburgh, Jedburgh, Dundrennan, Kinloss, Newbottle, and Cambuskenneth. He founded also the priory of Lesmahago, and a convent of Cistercian nuns at Berwick; translated the monks of Selkirk to the newly founded abbey of Kelso, erected the episcopal sees of Ross and Dunkeld, and conferred upon the church innumerable benefactions.

Before ascending the throne, he decided a dispute which had sprung up between the Coldingham monks and the Drengs \* of the land of Horndean, upon the testimony of legal witnesses, and the charter of his brother Edgar, in favour of the former.

He then granted the lands of Swinton, which Edgar had given to the monks, to his soldier Hernulf, to be held of himself and St. Cuthbert, by the same tenure

\* Drengs were a species of *villeyns*, as already noticed, attached to the soil, and liable to be bought and sold along with it. They held their tenements in *drengage*.—Chalmer's Caledonia, vol. i.

by which Liulf, the son of Edulf, and Udard his brother had formerly possessed it, viz : an annual payment to the monks of forty shillings, without any other service. \*

By a charter, dated at Peebles in the third year of his reign, A.D. 1127, he conferred upon them some valuable privileges, which tended to elevate them considerably in consequence. The most important of these was that of *socna*, a Saxon word, which seems to have implied the power of holding courts upon their lands for the settlement of disputes, and the arraignment of offenders, with authority to compel their vassals to attend and aid the judge in the administration of justice. It has also been supposed, that those to whom such a privilege was ceded by the king, could compel their tenants to cultivate the land as it were with *soc* or plough. The prior was the judge who presided in these courts, of which there were three head ones held yearly, which are frequently adverted to in the chartulary. The chapter-house of the abbey appears to have been the place where they were most commonly held, though occasional meetings for this purpose were convened at Ayton, and other places throughout Coldinghamshire. Thus, in 1198, we find Edward de Aldcambus pledging himself to produce his four sons at the plea courts of Coldingham (ad placita de Coldingham) to swear away their right to the village of Auldcambus; and during the reign of William the Lion, a similar transaction relative to land at Renton, and the wood of Auldcambus, belonging to David of Quixwood, was gone through (in plena curia præfati prioris (Ærnaldi) apud Homelennolle), in Prior Ærnald's full court at Homelinnolle—a conical eminence close to Coldingham shore, still retaining the name of Homeliknow. In like manner,

\* This Hernulf or Arnulf was the founder of the ancient family Swinton of Swinton.

and about the same time, there occurred the “*magna placilatio in curia de Eyton pro duodecim denariis male receptis per J. Kinkborne, nomine sedis unius navis apud Eyemouth,*” or the great plea in the court of Ayton, about twelve pennies unduly received by J. Kinkborn for the anchorage of a ship at Eyemouth.\*

The next privilege bestowed upon the priory was that of *sacca*, whereby the prior could levy fines, and pass sentence of forfeiture upon debtors or delinquents summoned to this court. In the laws of Edward the Confessor, it is said to have signified a fine imposed upon a prosecutor who summoned a person to trial, and failed in proving the accusation which he had brought against him; or upon one, who, being accused, rashly subjected himself to trial, and failed in proving his innocence.†

The three other privileges ceded to it, were those of *toll*, *team*, *infangethef*, which were also a valuable acquisition. By the first of these, the monks were empowered to buy and sell without paying toll or custom for their merchandize, within their territory, with the right of exacting such custom from others who did so; and by the second, they were enabled to dispose of their *villains* or slaves in whatever way they might think proper. *Infangethef* is supposed to be merely the power of trying thieves or robbers detected in the act of committing depredations upon the property, the owner of which possessed that privilege. It is doubtful, however, whether this explanation of the term be not too limited. We are rather inclined to believe that it granted the powers of punishing as well as trying the culprit. In a charter granted to the burgesses

\* See Glossary to Bawdwin's Domesday. *Regiam Majestatem*, p. 11. Chartulary of Coldingham, and Charters in Appendix.

† *Reg. Majest.* eodem loco quod *supra*.



of Berwick by Queen Elizabeth, it is ordered "that a gallows be erected, so that the Mayor and bailiffe of Infangethief and Outfangethief may doe justice." \* About half a mile south from the ruins of the priory is an eminence which is called the Gallow-side, where several human skeletons have been at various times dug up; but whether the executions of malefactors here undergone were in virtue of sentences passed in the court of the priory, or in that of the Justiciary of Lothian during his *itinera* or circuits, we shall not pretend to determine. It may here also be remarked, that a circular pit, twelve or fourteen feet deep, near the south door of the present church, was filled up within these few years, which was not improbably the dungeon to which the more offensive class of criminals were consigned, previous to being subjected to trial, or the sentence of the law.

King David next granted them the church of St. Mary at Berwick, with the lands, tithes, and the rights belonging to it, in exchange for the church of Melrose, and its property. The period at which the latter was acquired by the Coldingham monks is not known. This exchange took place previous to David founding, further up the Tweed, the more splendid abbey of Melrose, whose magnificent ruins, mouldering in hoary grandeur, and touched by the wizard wand of Scott, charm the eye of all who visit them. The church of St. Mary

\* The charter alluded to is preserved in the Archives of the Borough of Berwick-upon-Tweed, and for a knowledge of the above extract the author is indebted to Mark Jameson, Esq. Town Clerk. In the *Regiam Majestatem*, these terms are thus explained: "Infangthiefe est regale privilegium alicui a Rege concessum, quod licet ei proprios homines in suo dominio, cum re furtiva deprehensos, siculi per Outfangethiefe potest alienos homines cum furto manifesto, infra suam libertatem captos punire, p. 11.

at Berwick, now gifted to our priory, was founded and liberally endowed by one Robert Fitzwilliam, probably about the time of the conquest, or soon afterwards, when the appanage of Berwick was vested in David, Earl of Huntingdon. It was first of all appropriated to the service of an hospital, which stood in its vicinity, and which was also dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The church was situated on the south-east side of High-street, close upon the Scotch-gate, where a small portion of its remains are still visible. By succeeding charters he bestowed upon the monks of 'Colhinbeham' one tith with houses in the village of Ednam (Edenham), which Gilbert the priest of Stichel formerly held of him; at a rent of two shillings yearly, exempt from all other services; a fishing-water which Swain the priest of Fishwick had formerly held and cleared from stones; and unto Edward, monk of Coldingham, he granted the whole tithe of fish in the fisheries of Halwarestelle and of all the other waters justly belonging to the church of Holy Island.\* The fishery of Halwarestelle was situated at the mouth of the Tweed near Spittal, and is now commonly called Hallowatel.

During the reign of king David, and his amiable son Henry, Earl of Northumberland, many other grants of property were made to our monastery by wealthy individuals, to most of which the former added charters of confirmation. The noble family of Dunbar, sprung from the Saxon Earls of Northumbria, began, at this period, to hold a prominent place in the history of Scotland. Possessing immense estates in East Lothian and Berwickshire, they naturally displayed their liberality, by making donations to the religious houses

\* *Halieiland* in the charter. Previous to the removal of St. Cuthbert's body, the island usually bore the name of Lindisferne, but after that event it was called Holy Island, in honour of the saint.

situated within these districts, up to the period of their somewhat unmerited forfeiture in the reign of James the first of Scotland.

Cospatrick, the brother of Dolfinus, who witnessed the foundation charters of the monasteries of Scone and Holyrood, and died 16th August 1139, issued a charter, of which the following is a translation :—

“Unto all the sons of the Holy Church of God, high and low, clergy and laity, Earl Cospatric, brother of Dolfinus, greeting. Know ye, that I have given and granted unto God, St. Cuthbert, and his monks, in alms, the village of Ederham (now Edrom), with all its chapels, and another village which is called Nesebite, freely and privately to be held for ever, with all things which pertain unto the same villages, in lands, waters, meadows, and pastures, for the souls of king Malcolm, and of his sons king Ædgar, Alexander, David, and his son Henry, for myself, my wife, &c. And if any one wish to gainsay this mine alms, may it rest between him and the Lord. (Here follow the names of the witnesses.) Farewell. Whosoever shall abstract (*aught*) from this, may God deprive him of this life, and the kingdom of heaven.”

This singular document was ratified by the king at Roxburgh, on the seventeenth of the Calends of September, in 1139. From another deed it appears that the monks were expected to make an yearly payment to Cospatrick, and his heirs for ever, at the feast of St. Martin, of thirty shillings *pro coaradio regis*,\* and that they were to find a substitute for their benefactor in the royal army.

In presence of Earl Henry, Swain, the priest of Fishwick, appeared at Berwick, and renounced, in favour

\* An yearly payment made to the king from each of the religious houses, according to Blount and Ducange.

of the Coldingham monks, Fishwick, with all its purtenances, the half of Prendergest, with some land at Coldingham and Lumsdean.

But from Robert, archbishop of St. Andrews, they obtained, in 1127, a donation of privileges of a much more satisfactory nature, in a charter, of which we shall venture the following translation :—

“Unto all faithful men of Holy Mother Church, clergy and laity, present and to come, Robert, by the grace of God bishop of St. Andrews, greeting. Be it known unto you all, that, in the presence of our sovereign Lord King David, Turstin (Thurstin) archbishop of York, Ranulf (Ralph Flambard) bishop of Durham, the bishop of Glasgow, and Gaufrid abbot of St. Albans, and many others, we have summoned Algar, prior of St. Cuthbert of Durham, before the door of the church of St. John the Evangelist at Roxburgh, and there, as far as pertaineth unto our episcopal authority, by attesting and ratifying the present charter, we have granted and confirmed the church of Coldingham to be free and exempt for ever from all claims made by us or our successors of *custom, can or cuneved*, and from all services which pertain unto us or our successors. Wherefore we will, and by our episcopal authority grant, that the church of Coldingham, and all the churches and chapels which in any way belonged canonically to the church of St. Cuthbert, be henceforth *more free and exempt from all episcopal aids, &c. &c. than any other abbey-church in Loudoneum* (Lothian); and we forbid that any bishop, archdeacon, or deacon, hereafter exact any custom or aid from them, saving what they may voluntarily offer. All this we have done, by the request and advice of our Lord and King David, and our brother bishops aforesaid, in love to St. Cuthbert, and the brotherhood of the monks of Durham, on the

xvi of the Calends of August, at the feast of St. Kenelm\* the martyr, in the year from the incarnation of our Lord, mcxxvii, before these witnesses, our brother Robert Blahan, priest of Linton†, Aldulf, priest of Haldehamtoce‡, Henry, priest of Leinhale, Orm, priest of Ledgareswude§, and many other religious men, both clergy and laity.”

The exemption from payment of the tributes of *can* and *cuneved* was the most important which the archbishop had it in his power to bestow. Out of the former the revenue of Scotland was, at that period, for the most part made up, though, in some instances, the power of exacting it was bestowed by the king upon the religious establishments—a privilege which seems to have belonged to the episcopal see of St. Andrews.¶ The monks received a confirmation of this charter also from their sovereign, and from bishop Robert’s successors. ¶

\* The martyrdom of St. Kenelm was celebrated on the 17th day of July.—Nicholas’ Chronology of History, p. 147.

† Linton on the Tyne in East Lothian.

‡ Aldhamstocks—a parish a few miles beyond our district, adjacent to Coldbrandspath.

§ Ledgerwood—a parish in the west of Berwickshire.

¶ Earl David granted to the monastery of Selkirk the tenth of his *Can* of animals and of cheeses in Galloway, (Chart. Kelso,) and the Scottish kings received *Can* from the ships which arrived at the different ports in Scotland, and from the salt-works which were established on its shores. *Cunveith* or *cunveith* was a Gaelic duty like the *Can*, paid to the superior, particularly to ecclesiastical superiors. *Ceanmhath*, which is pronounced *Ceanvath*, implies in the Gaelic the *first* or *chief fruits*, or in the ecclesiastical sense, the *first-fruits*.—Chal. Caledonia, vol. i. p. 447.

¶ It was confirmed by Roger, bishop of St. Andrews, at Edinburgh in 1193, in presence of William the Lion—by William, bishop of the same see, by charter, dated at Dirleton, 6th June 1296; and again by bishop James Bayn in 1329, in consideration of a present of two hundred merks.—Chartulary of Coldingham.

Such were the principal accessions of property or of privilege acquired by the priory during the reign of David I. It may be noticed also, that this monarch was the first who distinctly specified the boundaries between the *shires* of Coldingham and Buncle, which, in his charter, he informs us, he had perambulated *cum probis hominibus*, and had confirmed their extent as follows: from Middlesdeneheued (middle-dean-head) by Mereburnesheued (mire-burn-head), towards the west to Crachotre, and thence by the same street or road (*stratam*), as far as Eiford. In a charter of William the Lion, and of Alexander II. published in the Appendix, its limits are much more minutely described, as stretching from the bounds between Berwick and Lamberton to Billy, thence to Drieforde, and so by Mereburn to Crachotre, thence to Eiford, and to the rivulet which flows into the sea by Aldchambuspethe.

Malcolm IV. who swayed with feeble hand the Scottish sceptre, between the years 1153 and 1165 issued six charters in favour of the monastery, by which the monks acquired the privilege of free-warren; or the right of exclusive hunting within their territory, and of transporting the men of Coldinghamshire to the village to inhabit it. He at the same time prohibited them for responding to any pleas that might be entered against them, except in his own presence, or in that of his Chief Justiciary, and granted them the liberty of seizing and detaining their fugitive *villains* wherever they might detect them.

William the Lion confirmed the charters of his predecessor, and augmented their privileges and property. He prohibited his Justiciaries for illegally maintaining any of the men belonging to the monastery against the prior or his house, and exempted them from a payment of two shillings, which his bailiffs of Berwick had been in

the habit of exacting. By a charter, dated at Berwick, he commanded that the following woods should be in the keeping of the prior and his monks, viz. Greenwood, the whole wood of Reston, Brockholewood, Akeside, and Kirkdeanwood, Harewood, Deanwood, Swinewood, Houndwood, with their groves and wastes ; \* prohibited any one from hunting in them, under a penalty of ten pounds, without permission from the prior or his monks ; but allowed his servants at Berwick to take what wood was necessary for the use of the castle from such part of the forest as the prior or his deputies might point out. The greater part of these woods sheltered the sides of the vale of the Eye, as has in another place been remarked ; and during the reign of William the Lion, between the years 1198 and 1210, prior Ærnald bestowed upon Richard de Renton the office of forester, with several valuable emoluments belonging to it, to be held by him and his heirs for ever. † He further bestowed upon the monks a grant of a toft of land in his burgh of Hadington.

During this reign also, Waldeve, Earl of Dunbar, who, in 1174, was one of the hostages delivered up to Henry II. of England, in accordance with the treaty of Falaise, to purchase the Scottish king's freedom, confirmed the charter of Cospatrick respecting Edrom and Nesbit. His son Patrick, who held the earldom of Dunbar for the unusually long period of fifty years,

\* In one of the charters the word *Richesdeneswode* is employed for Kirchesdeneswde, probably by a mistake of the notary by whom the document was drawn up. There is now no place of this name in Coldinghamshire. It seems to have represented a wood which clothed a dean adjacent to the churches of AuldCambus or Coldingham.

† Sir Samuel Stirling, Bart. of Glorat and Renton is the present hereditary representative of the Foresters of Coldingham.—See Renton, at page 109, P. 1.

followed the example of his ancestors in liberality to the monks. He bestowed upon them the land which lies between Fogo and Swinton; \* also that part of Billy which extends between Auchencraw and the two villages of Reston, and the village and lordship of Swinewood.

About the same period William de Veterepont, who held the barony of Langton in Berwickshire, in conjunction with the Northumbrian Roger de Ow, confirmed to them some land near Horndean, which he acknowledges he had for some years previously usurped. † From Walter Olifard, who died in 1242, they obtained the right of exacting yearly from the church of Smailholm, in the county of Roxburgh, two merks and a half of silver, after the death of Fulco the clerk, to be paid at two terms, the one half at the feast of St. Martin, the other at that of Pentecost. Clarebald de Esseby, his vassal, granted them two fishing waters in the river Tweed, viz. one below the garden of Fishwick, and another at Shipeswell. ‡ They also acquired from William de Mordington another fishery, with a *stilnet*, at the latter place. William de Bosco, or de Bosch, the Chancellor of Scotland, made them a donation of three acres of land on the Tay, on the

\* The boundaries of this land were, according to the charter, as follows:—The road which leads from Herneslawe (now Earnslaw) by Ryselaw to Fullech (ubi?) thence to Blackburn, and thence to the bounds between Swinton and Kimmergham.

† The bounds were “from the top of the hill opposite Horvordresdene (Horndean) to the valley in which a rivulet flows to the Tweed; so, however, that there be a free road for the people of the village to the river.”

‡ According to our informant, Mr. Blackadder of Blanerne, there is a field called Shipsly-park, close upon the Tweed, at the junction of the estates of Fishwick and Tweedhill, about six miles above Berwick, which seems to indicate the situation of these fisheries.



moor of Carruthers, which he tells us afforded pasture for a hundred sheep, forty oxen, fifty goats, twenty swine, and three horses, for an acknowledgment of three shillings yearly. \* From Ranulf, the baron of Buncle, they received a grant of the lands then called Toddehalech, but now Todheugh, on the Whitadder (juxta Edere), in the parish of Edrom. He at the same time renounced a claim which he seems to have held, over the woods, of Brockholes, Harewood, and Deanwood, which, in after years, was confirmed by Margaret, Countess of Mar, in a charter dated 5th January, 1415.

William de Vaux, baron of Dirleton in East Lothian, bestowed two oxgangs of land in the territory of Gulane (Golan), the situation of which is minutely described in the charter, and a toft in that village, situated near the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, for which he was to receive four pennies at the feast of St. Michael. From Edward, son of Peter, baron of Lastailrig, † they obtained two tofts at Eyemouth, and one at Leith, for which he and his heirs were to receive yearly three teasas of silk lace (*tres teisas de lacio sericeo*); and William Cumming, one of the most distinguished characters of his time, made them a yearly grant of twelve pounds of wax (*petra ceræ*) for lighting the church of Coldingham at the festival of St. Cuthbert's Translation, on the 4th of September.

But all of these benevolent individuals were far outvied in liberality by David, the baron of Quixwood—a territory adjacent to Coldinghamshire, in the parish of Abbey St. Bathans. For the enlightenment of the local antiquary, we shall extract the substance of his

\* "*Cum communi pastura*," runs the charter, "*villæ de Carruderis ad centum bidentes et quadraginta averia, et ad quinquaginta capros, et viginta porcos, et ad tres equos*," &c.

† Restalrig, near Edinburgh.

charters, requesting the general reader to overleap these notices, as he has, we dare venture to affirm, much that has been already set down. David adopted the most approved method at that time of endeavouring to save his soul by lavishing his substance upon the worthy monks, to whom he granted no less than eight charters. Besides endowing the leper-hospital of Auldcambus, as has been already noticed, he granted to St. Cuthbert, St. Ebb, and the monks of Coldingham, twenty-six acres of land adjacent to it, which he thus describes in one of his grants :—six acres under cultivation at Leyes, six acres in Milnedales, three at Arkilesmidhope, three in Hagethornedales and Emundsacre, one acre at Windilawe, four at Medwedales, half an acre at Midhope, and another half at Wascel toward the north, with the toft of an acre opposite the garden, near the rivulet toward the south. He then granted them the whole land, together with a wood, \* which he possessed upon the moor of Auldcambus, extending as follows :—from the top (a primo fonte) of Bertolvisakiselow to Aksideburne, from the road of Akside-selow westward to Aksideburne, in exchange for two oxgangs of land, with a toft and croft at Coldingham. He further, with the consent of his wife and his heirs, resigned in their favour all the property which he had in the village of Auldcambus, for sixty acres of land in the territory of Coldingham, a hundred shillings, a toft and croft which Waldevus Pethun had formerly held, *ten acres under cultivation with flowers*, and a messuage near the workshop of Benedict the carpenter. He finally resigned

\* Perhaps the same wood of Auldcambus, in after years renowned in history as the place which furnished the immortal Bruce with materials for the siege of Berwick, and where he indignantly rejected the bull of the Pope.

all his right to the lands of Auldcambus, cultivated and uncultivated, reserving only to himself the privilege of pasturing upon them his cattle, and of abstracting from them as much bark and brushwood (*pelo et virga*) as he might require for building.

Alexander II. confirmed the charters of his predecessors, and exempted the prior and his monks from a sum of twenty merks which they had been in the custom of paying yearly to his exchequer, under the name of *Wattunga*—a tax which appears to have been levied from the landholders in Scotland for the purpose of erecting and maintaining in repair the government fortresses.\* He also discharged Robert de Bernham the mayor, and the bailiffs of Berwick, from molesting foreign merchants, when on their way to the priory, to purchase the wool and other commodities belonging to the monks; and that no one should seize any property, moveable or unmoveable, belonging to the convent, within the barony or lordship of Coldingham, for debt on forfeiture.† He also released “the twelfth village of Coldinghamshire, or that in which the church is founded,” from the aids and military service which had formerly been exacted.

Alexander III. confirmed to the monks their charter of free warren and free forestry, at Selkirk, 16th June 1276; and during his reign, by charter, dated at Chirnside, on Friday following the feast of All Saints, (1st

\* The words *Wattunga*, *Waytinge*, *Guetagium*, &c. often occur in the chartularies; and imply, according to Ducange, “*Census qui solvitur pro custodia castri*.”

† The property here taken under protection is represented by the words *namos suos ullorum hominum*. Skene informs us, “*Nami* significant res mobiles vel mobiles quæ tanquam pignora capiuntur pro rei judicatæ solutione. Verbum est usitatum priscis Normannis.”—*Reg. Majest.* p. 79.

November,) Patrick, Earl of Dunbar, restored to them the wardship of East-Nesbit, with the right of disposing of its heirs in marriage, reserving to himself and his heirs a payment of thirty shillings for the villages of East-Nesbit and Edrom, and the *foreign service* due to him for the same.\* He also confirmed the grants made to them by his predecessors.

Robert de Insula, by deed dated at Northallerton on the sixth of the Ides of September 1279, granted to Henry de Horncastre the Prior of Coldingham, and to the monks of that cell for ever, a place for a habitation in the village of Holy Island, on the north side of "Lamasete," a hundred and fifty feet in length and breadth, for which they were to pay sixpence yearly at the exchequer of Norham. An orchard at Holy Island called Coldingham Walls, which was probably the site of this edifice, was in 1541 granted by the crown to the Dean and Chapter of Durham as the part of their endowment. The Coldingham priors, not unfrequently, during troublous times, or when superannuated, took up their abode in this edifice.

King Robert Bruce by charter, at Newbottle, twenty-sixth December, 1328, conferred upon them the privilege of taking yearly, from the forest of Selkirk, five stags for celebrating the festival of St. Cuthbert's Translation. The game was to be delivered up to them by the chief forester, and transported to the priory in the king's own wains. He also confirmed the charters of kings Edgar and David, &c. In the

\* The right of wardship continued till the heir, if a male, reached his 21st year, and if a female, her 14th.—Reg. Maj. p. 1. *Forinsecum servitium*, or foreign service, has been defined to be "that service which a mecuī mean lord exacts from another within the compass of his own fee; or that which a tenant performs to his own lord, or to the lord paramount, out of the fee."

year 1295 they also received a charter of protection from Edward I. of England; and, as formerly stated, in 1305, he granted them the privilege of holding a weekly market on Wednesday, and a yearly fair which was to commence upon the eve of St. Luke.

David II. confirmed his father's charters, and issued a writ of special protection to the prior and his convent, dated at Scone, 16th June, in the 89th year of his age (1368). Edward III. also granted a similar charter at York; and on the 6th June, 1359, empowered the prior to grant leases of his lands and tenements lying in the county of Berwick to whom he chose. He also, by another charter, gave him permission to purchase in England, through his servants, a supply of victuals for the support of the monks, viz: a hundred quarters of wheat, a hundred and forty quarters of malt and barley, and fifty quarters of oats, with the power of conveying them to the priory by sea or land. From James II. and from Henry VI. they also received charters of protection for their house and property.

Robert III. granted a confirmatory charter at Linlithgow, 26th January, 1391; and on the 12th June, 1402, James I. took the prior and his convent under his special protection. It is the first of the royal charters granted to the priory, drawn up in the English language, and runs as follows:—

“James, be the grace of God, king of Scottis, til al & sundry our liegis & subdites to quhais knowlages thir our lettres sal to cum, greting. Wyt vs til haue taken vnder our speciale maintenance, protection, defens, & saufe-garde, our louede chapellanyis ye pryour, & ye Conuent of our abbay of Coldinghame · yair men, seruandis, landis, rentis, possessions . takkis & malyngis, & al vyeris yair gudis moueble & unmoueble temporale & spirituale quhatsumeuer · Quharefor strait-

ly we forbide yat ony man tak on hande to do ye saide priour, & conuent, yair abbay, men, seruandis, landis, rentis, possessions or gudis forsaide, ony evil, molestacioun, violence, distroubillance, or ony grefe, or thol to be done in als fer as yhe may make Impediment vyer wais yan ye cours of common law. . . . under al payne & charge may efter folow. Thir our lettres for our wil til endur. Gevyn vnder our pryve Sele at Streueling ye xij day of Junij & of our Regne ye Sext yher." \*

The preceding is an enumeration of the privileges, possessions, and immunities enjoyed by the monks, of which grants are preserved in the chartularies. It is probable, however, that they possessed many others which have not been so carefully recorded. Much of the land originally conferred upon them was *let out* in leases of considerable extent. Thus, some time before the year 1333, Richard Whiteworth, the prior, granted a twenty years' lease of the manor of Fishwick to William de Prenderguest, at the rent of £20 *per annum*; and on the 6th June, 1359, Edward III. gave his special licence to prior William de Bamburgh to let his farms to Scots as well as English. † In more recent years, the chartulary abounds with deeds connected with their lands disposed of in this way. Besides the rents thus payable, the tenant was bound to supply a certain number of days' ploughing, and labourers to assist in

\* See Charters in Appendix to History of North Durham, Chartulary of Coldingham in Advocates' Library, Rotul. Scotiæ, vol. i. p. 838, 898. ii. p. 298. Dugdale's Monasticon, vol. ii. p. 1051. Ayloff's Calendar, p. 276. and Appendix to the present volume.

† See deeds in the rolls of Parliament, one of which is headed, "Mandatum de reddendo manerium de Fishwyck priori de Coldingham;" the other, "Priori Coldynghamiae datur licentia dimittendi ad firmam tam Scottis quam Anglis terras prioratus sui in regionibus Scotiæ Anglicatis."—Rot. Scot. vol. i. p. 265. Id. i. p. 838.

the *casting* of peats for fuel, and in hay-making. This service was, however, in many cases commuted into money.

The revenues of the monks must have varied at different periods. At one time we find them almost reduced to the necessity of abandoning the monastery for want of nourishment, and at another, in the receipt of an income scarcely equalled by any other religious establishment in the kingdom.\* A rental preserved

\* A charter of protection, granted by Henry VI. translated below exhibits the deplorable condition to which the monks were, on more than one occasion, reduced. It is published in *Rotuli Scotiæ*, vol. ii. p. 298, and headed, "Protectio pro monachis Coldynghamiæ per utriusque gentis exercitus spoliatis." "We, the King unto our Warden of the west and east march, unto each of our captains, leaders and governors of men-at-arms, archers, &c. greeting. On the part of the prior and convent at Coldingham, which is a cell of Durham, we are humbly petitioned that, as the said priory is so situated with the land of Scotland, at one time our own subjects making inroads into Scotland, and at another the subjects of Scotland making inroads into England, and going down by the aforesaid priory, very frequently refresh themselves in the same, and in the manors and granges pertaining to it, and destroy and consume the victuals and animals, as well dead as alive, which are ordained and provided for the support of the prior, convent, and their domestics, that they have often neither meat nor drink which they can set before them, on which account the number of monks, who used and ought to serve the Most High (Altissimo) in the same, is exceedingly reduced and diminished; and it is probable, that, for want of food and due support, it will be wholly abolished, so that divine service will necessarily cease in the same; from reverence to God, and for the promotion and support of his service in the same, we would piously sympathize with the probable desolation and destruction of the said priory of Coldyngham, and generously provide in this respect for the security and quiet of the prior and convent of that place. That the same prior and monks of Coldyngham may be enabled more quietly to serve the Most High, and that they may be preserved from being molested and disturbed by our subjects of the Marches of Scotland, by the advice and consent of our Council we have taken the prior and monks of Coldyngham under our *very special* protection, care, and

in the Advocates' Library, and drawn up by Sir Andrew Stretchenry, the chamberlain of Scotland, about the period of the Reformation, makes its revenues much inferior in value to what they have been estimated by other authorities. Neither the sums contributed, under the name of *pensions*, by the many chapels and churches subordinate to the monastery, nor the produce of the lands which the monks retained in their own hands, are taken into account—a circumstance to which this inferiority may possibly be ascribed. The revenue is there stated to have been £320. 11s. 4d. with 1633 capons and 522 days' service. The manuscript of Lauchlan Shaw, according to Chalmers, supplies the most probable statement, which is as follows;—

Money £818. 10s. 9d; wheat 6 chalders, 7 bolls, 3 firlots, 2 pecks; bear 19 chalders, 12 bolls, 1 firlot, 2 pecks; oats, 56 chalders, 8 bolls, 2 firlots; pease, 3 chalders, 18 bolls, 2 firlots, besides a number of cain fowls, and services.

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**OFFICERS.**—Like the other Benedictine monasteries, that of Coldingham was ruled by a chief officer, denominated *the prior*, who seems to have assumed all the authority of an abbot. The right of *electing* him seems

defence (in protectionem tuitionem et defensionem nostros *maxime speciales*). Therefore we command you to maintain, protect, and defend the prior and monks of Coldyngham, their servants, tenants, &c. &c. neither doing to them yourselves, nor suffering to be done to them, by others, any injury, molestation, loss, &c. And if they have incurred any forfeiture or injury, that shall ye cause without delay to be corrected and duly reformed.

Witness the King at Westminster, xxviii day of November."



to have originally been vested in the mother church of Durham, while the privilege of instalment or institution was exercised by the archbishops of St. Andrews. In more recent years, however, the Scottish kings, and even the regent, appointed their kinsmen or favourites to the lucrative office. Most of the priors upon the list, during the three centuries after the foundation, appear from their names to be Englishmen, and not a few of them were translated from Coldingham to fill the same office at Durham. Besides a series of private offices and apartments adjoining the monastery, during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, if not previously, the important officer had a hunting-seat or tower at Houndwood, where a considerable portion of his time was probably spent.\* His retinue was equal in number to any in the kingdom, though the power of the earlier priors was somewhat circumscribed, in consequence of the monastery being subordinate to that of Durham. They attended personally, or by proxy, at an yearly chapter of the brethren of the latter institution, when they were required to give an account of the condition of their house, and of their expenditure during the preceding year. They had the right of voting at the election of a prior of Durham; and, in latter years, had a seat among the barons in the Scottish parliament. For some years previous to the final dissolution of the monastery, the office was held *in commendam*, or in other words, the prior so constituted, reaped all the emoluments attached to it, without exercising its spiritual functions. Of the history of many of these superiors little or nothing is known;

\* Thus, in 1421-2, we find Prior William Drax confirming the office of forester to the priory on Ricardus de Renton, "apud nostrum domicilium de Hundewod."—Charter in possession of Sir Samuel Stirling, Bart. of Glorat.

and the subjoined list made up from the chartularies, and other sources, is not altogether perfect.\*

### LIST OF THE PRIORS.

A. D.	
1141	Symon.
1151—1175	Herbert.
1188—1199	Bertram.
1202—1208	Ærnald.
1209	Radulf.
1210—1214	Gaufrid.
1215—1218	Thomas de Melsonby.
1219—1240	Thomas Nisbit.
1245	Richard.
1250	A . . . . .
1278	Roger de Walveston.
1276—1296	Henry de Horncastre.
1301—1303	William de Middleton.
1304—1311	William de Gretham.
1315—1322	Richard de Quixwood.
1324—1326	Richard de Whiteworth.
1328—1332	Adam de Ponte Fracto.
1336—1339	William de Scacarro.
1341—1354	William de Scaresburgh.
1359—1362	William de Bamburgh.
1364—1374	Robert Walworth.
1375—1379	Robert Claxton.
1380	Michael.
1394	John Steel.
1400—1417	John de Akecliff.
1418—1431	William Drax.

\*The figures prefixed to the names of the Priors represent the years in which there is evidence of their having held the office.

## A. D.

1432—1448	John Olle.
1449	Thomas Ayre.
1456—1469	John Pencher.
1470—1483	Thomas Wren.
1510—1513	Alexander Stuart.
1513—1514	Andrew Forman.
1514—1517	David Home.
1518—1519	Robert Blackadder.
1522—1531	William Douglas.
1532—1541	Adam.
1542—1563	John Stuart.
1563—1565	Alexander Home.
1566	Francis Stuart.
1566—1570	John Maitland.
1570—1621	Alexander, Lord Home.
1622	John Stuart.

*Simon*, whose name occurs at the head of this list, is the first prior on record. He held office during the reign of David I., and is casually noticed in a charter connected with the abbey of Dunfermline, and in a grant made to his grandson by William the Lion. \*

*Herbert*, his successor, was a churchman of more celebrity. When the nobility of Scotland had, in 1174, ingloriously sacrificed the independence of their country, by acknowledging Henry II. of England to be lord paramount, in order to procure the release of king William from captivity, Herbert, and other magnanimous ecclesiastics, stood boldly forward in defence of

\* Chartulary of Dunfermline in Advocates' Library; History of N. Durham, Appendix, p. 12. where a toft in Coldingham, and 26 acres of land, are granted to Richard "nepoti Simonis quondam prioris de Coldingham."

the Scottish church, whose liberties the English monarch attempted also to undermine. \* The names of several of his successors are all that is known of them. *Bertram* is alluded to in a renunciatory charter of Edward de Auldcombis in 1198, and in the confirmation charter of William the Lion. *Ærnald* attested a donation to the monastery of Arbroath, and the initial letter of his name occurs in a deed contained in the chartulary of Melrose. During the reign of king William, David de Quixwood did homage to *Radulf* or *Ralph*, the prior, and the monks of Coldingham.

*Gaufre*, or *Galfrid de Coldingham*, as the successor of Ralph is usually styled, appears to have been a person of considerable erudition. He had previously held the office of Sacrist, during which time he wrote a metrical history of the church of Durham, under the following title :—"Incipit Liber Gaufridi Sacristæ de Coldingham de statu ecclesiæ Dunelmensis, qui incipit ab obitu Willelmi de S. Barbara episcopi (1143) usque ad electionem domini Morgani." It contains twenty-two chapters of very unequal length. † About the time of Gaufrid's sacristanship, or during the latter half of the twelfth century, a monk of Coldingham, called Reginald, wrote a work in Latin on the miracles of St. Cuthbert, which has been recently published by the

\* Rymer's *Fœdera*, vol. i. p. 39.

† *Anglia Sacra*, p. 718—731. The following brief extract from the first chapter is at once illustrative of his style of writing, and of the sophistry employed by the monks to extract money from the purses of superstitious laymen :

Felix qui voluit monachi conducere laudes  
 Ille metus omnes et inexorabile fatum  
 Subjecit pedibus, clarum et memorabile nomen  
 In Libro Vitæ per sæcula longa vigebit ;  
 At qui nec nummos confert nec jugera, talis  
 Hæredi dives, tenebris damnatur Avernî.

**Surtess' society of Durham.** It was dedicated to St. Ethelred, the pious abbot of Rievaulx, who furnished Reginald with many of the legends contained in it. Besides an ample addition to the stories narrated by Bede and other hagiologic writers, of the miraculous virtue of St. Cuthbert's relics in the curing of disease, preservation from shipwreck and starvation, the ejection of demons, &c., it contains many passages which tend to throw light upon one of the darkest periods in our national history. \* Gaufrid was prior in 1216, the year in which the king died.

*Thomas Melsonby*, a monk of Durham, succeeded him, and held the priorate for upwards of three years. In the spring of 1218, he and his convent were absolved from the sentence of excommunication which they had incurred in common with the other Scottish monasteries, by William, prior of Durham, and Walter de Wisbech, archdeacon of York, who, by order of the pope, traversed Scotland upon that errand. † On

\* The work of Reginald contains 141 chapters. The MS. is the property of the dean and chapter of Durham, who purchased it from the executors of Dr. Christopher Hunter nearly a century ago, and from the character of its marginal and foot notes, it is supposed to be in the hand-writing of Reginald himself. Another imperfect copy of the same MS. is preserved at York, which is thought to have been written during the earlier part of the thirteenth century. It has the following title: "*Libellus de Miraculis S. Cuthberti secundum Reginaldum de Coldingham—Incipit prœmium in subsequentem libellum de virtutibus et miraculis gloriosi Pontificis Cuthberti secundum Etheldredum Abbatem Rievallensis Ecclesiæ et Reginaldum monachum de Coldingham, directum Priori et Conventui Dunelmensis.*" In the British Museum (MSS. Harl. 4383) is a transcript of Reginald's work, upon paper written in a much more modern hand.

† While upon this tour, on reaching a town they summoned the clergy to attend them, and having required them to swear allegiance to the papal legate, and to make a candid confession of all matters concerning which they were asked, they absolved them, standing barefoot

their return they halted at the abbey of Lindores, where the prior was nearly suffocated with smoke, a fire having broke out in the chamber where he slept, through the carelessness and rioting of those who had the charge of the wine. He was with difficulty conveyed to Coldingham, where he breathed his last on the 13th May. Prior Melsonby was appointed to fill the office thus left vacant; and in 1237, on the promotion of bishop Poor to the see of Salisbury, he was made bishop of Durham. He was elected by the unanimous voice of the monks, without consulting the king, who urged no fewer than seventeen objections against his instalment, which are crowded upon a small sheet of parchment. One of these objections is ludicrous enough. It accuses him of homicide, inasmuch as a certain rope dancer, by his consent and in his presence, attempted to walk along a rope stretched between two of the towers of Durham church, and in the prosecution of his mad attempt had fallen to the ground and been killed. His other objections are of a more weighty character. He alleged that Melsonby was an enemy to himself and his kingdom, because he had previously been prior of Coldingham, and had taken the oath of allegiance to the king of Scots; and that in the event of his becoming bishop, he would have in his possession many places of great strength on the borders of Scotland, and be master of a tract of sea-coast well adapted for landing forces from France and Flanders. Notwithstanding the disapproval of their sovereign, the monks maintained the validity of their election, and dispatched Melsonby to the court of Rome

before the doors of their churches and abbies. The commissioners were very sumptuously entertained, and their favour was courted by great sums of money, and many presents.—*Ridpath's Border History*, p. 127.

to solicit the interference of the pope in his behalf. But while crossing the channel, he was overtaken by the emissaries of Henry, who forced him to return. On the 8th April 1240, he resigned the bishopric, and soon afterwards the office of prior, and retired to Farn Island, which was then the retreat of a hermit called Bartholomew. "But Bartholomew's humble fare and austerities," says Mr. Raine, "soon disgusted the ex-prior, and sent him home again to Durham. After a while, however, he returned, conscience-smitten, to the hermit, and was soon afterwards attacked by a mortal disease. Heming, the man who watched over him in his last moments, saw choirs of angels clad in white apparel hovering over the hermitage to receive his spirit, and at the same instant of time Bartholomew detected the devil sitting in a corner of the little mansion, in the shape of a bear, lamenting grievously that the dying man had escaped his snares, and was going to his reward. Bartholomew, not much relishing the presence of such a guest, sprinkled the beast and the place where he was sitting, with holy water, but without effect; at last, however, he dashed at once the vessel and its contents full in the face of the evil one, who straightway disappeared. Thomas had by this time breathed his last, and his body was forthwith conveyed over the narrow channel which separates Farn from Bamburgh, and placed in a vehicle, in which it was intended to be conveyed to Durham for sepulture. But the horse destined to draw it was lame; this defect, however, was speedily remedied by a miracle. The body, on its road, rested during one of the nights of its journey before the altar of St. Mary's church in Gateshead, and was guarded through the hours of darkness by snow-white doves which hovered over the coffin, and afforded it their protection.

At last it reached Durham, and was buried in the chapter-house." \*

*Thomas Nisbit*, the successor of Melsonby, occurs occasionally in the chartulary as prior between the years 1219 and 1240. On 18th June 1221, he attested the dower-charter of Alexander II. at York, granting to his queen Johanna the baronies of Jedburgh and Lessudden. † Of the three next priors upon the list, nothing is recorded.

*Henry de Horncastre* was elected to the priorate about the year 1276, when he granted an annuity of £108. 10s. to the prior of Durham, whose services in obtaining his advancement to the office he thus probably endeavoured to recompence. As has been stated in a former page, he swore fealty to Edward I. at Berwick in the years 1291 and 1296, and in return received a protection for himself and convent. ‡ His successor, *William de Middleton*, retired from office in 1303, in which year he had an allowance

\* Whart. *Anglia Sacra*, vol. i. p. 735, 736, 737. Raine's *St. Cuthbert*, p. 56. where reference is made to an anonymous life of Bartholomew in the British Museum, Harleian MSS. p. 4843. 10.

† Rymer's *Fœdera*, vol. i. p. 252.

‡ Rymer's *Fœdera*, Prynn's *Records*. In the rolls is the following entry, dated at Roxburgh, 16th May, 1296. "Prior de Coldyngham cum familia et propriis rebus suis habet literas regias de protectione sine claus' dur' usque ad festum Sti Michaelis proximo futuro." There is also a mandate to William de Dumfries, 1290-1, requiring him to deliver up to the prior of Coldingham, and Adam de St. Edmund, parson of the church of Restalrig, the property of the late Alan, bishop of Caithness, to be distributed by them for the soul of the said bishop. Robert de Greystanes, the Durham annalist, relates that Horncastre, previous to his elevation to the priorate, admiring the uncommon talents and virtues of Robert de Stichel, a priest's son, procured for him, without his knowledge, a dispensation from the pope, enabling him to be elected to the episcopal dignity. He thus became bishop of Durham in 1260.—Rot. Scot. vol. i. pp. 6, 23. Ang. Sac. i. p. 742.



of meat and drink granted to him by the prior of Durham, for the remainder of his life.\*

*William de Gretham* was prior at a very critical period, when the pompous Anthony Bek, Patriarch of Jerusalem, presided over the see of Durham. The bishopric of Biblis in the Holy Land had been seized by the Saracens, and Hugh, the bishop, reduced to extreme poverty. To mortify the pride of the prior of Coldingham, with whom he was at variance, Bek solicited the pope, Benedict the Eleventh, to bestow our monastery, and its revenues, upon the exiled bishop for life, or till such times as he should be enabled to recover possession of his charge. The pontiff, instead of affording him any relief or maintenance at the court of Rome, or in any of his Italian churches, issued a bull of provision in the terms dictated by Bek. Furnished with this singular instrument, Hugh hastened to England, and personally presented it for approval to the king and parliament assembled at Westminster, 5th April 1305, by whom it was deservedly rejected as unconstitutional and unjust. "In this bull," says Prynne, "we may observe, 1st, the strange injustice of the pope in supplying the poverty of this bishop with all the rents, profits, and emoluments of this priory, which should relieve and support the monks therein; and removing those placed therein by the prior (only to collect and distribute them for the use of the priory), without cause or hearsay; 2dly, his most execrable tyrannical injunction to put this bishop into the actual possession thereof, and excommunicate and interdict all who should oppose him therein, without

\* Rot. Scot. vol. i. p. 265, where he is said to have intruded himself into the priory "per vim et potestatem Roberti de Brys tempore guerræ."

benefit of appeal, notwithstanding contrary custom, statutes, or oath of that church to the contrary; though corroborated by the confirmation of the see apostolic, or any other firm assurance, be it by charters of our kings or acts of parliament. And which is more observable, notwithstanding any temporal or spiritual privilege or exemptions granted to this priory, or others severally or conjointly by the popes, and see apostolic, that they should not be excommunicated, suspended, or interdicted, or their cells or livings should be totally exempted from, and not liable to, any provision or disposition whatsoever of the see apostolic, which might hinder or delay the execution of this monstrous bull."

*Richard de Quixwood* was grandson of the benevolent baron of Quixwood, whose liberal donations to the monastery have been already enumerated. In 1320, he was summoned before the archbishop of St. Andrews, to answer to a charge of intemperance and remissness in the discharge of his official duties; and in 1322-3, on the representation of the Justiciary of Lothian, he was summoned before the Parliament, for having harboured Adam de Paxton, Gaufrid de Goswick, Robert de Hagerston, and other border barons who were denounced as traitors and rebels. It is not certain whether he obeyed this summons; he appears, however, either to have been ejected, or to have resigned the priorate in the course of the succeeding year.

*Richard de Whiteworth*, a monk of Durham, was instituted to the priory by Robert Bruce, without the approbation of the mother-church of Durham.\* The latter, however, granted him a provision on his resignation. Thus, in the twenty-third year of his reign,

\* Wardrobe Acts in British Museum.

we find Robert Bruce, by a charter dated at Berwick, and attested by several of the most distinguished men in the kingdom, confirming "the donation made by the prior and convent of Durham to Richard de Wyte-worth, monk, late keeper of the priory of Coldingham, of forty merks sterling, as yearly rental assigned to him in the mills of Ayton and Fordholm," for the maintenance of himself and a brother monk in the priory.\*

His successor, *Adam de Pontefract*, having celebrated divine service during the period of the interdict, applied to Cardinal Guacelin for absolution to himself and his convent, which he was so fortunate as to obtain in 1328. From the chartulary it appears that he held office in 1332. Hume of Godscroft tells us that while riding between Lindisferne and Coldingham, he was pitched from his horse upon his head, and was so seriously injured that he never afterwards recovered.

The next prior upon the list, *William de Scaccaro*, was excommunicated by the Bishop of Durham in 1339, for incontinence and embezzling money belonging to the monastery.

*William de Scaresburgh* resigned the priorate in 1354, when he received a provision of meat and drink from John, prior of Durham, and lived during the remainder of his life in retirement at Holy Island. He was succeeded by

*William de Bamburgh*, who had previously been prior of Lindisferne. In 1359, he received a charter from Edward III. calculated to improve the condition of his monastery, which had suffered seriously during the late wars. In 1362, he was accused of the same

\* Chart. Cold. Hist. N. Durham, App. p. 18. Richard de Coldingham, the same individual (?), attested a charter granted by Edw. III. to the monastery of Lythom in Lancashire, which was also a cell of Durham.—Dugdale's Monasticon, vol. i. p. 333.

fault as his predecessor Scaccaro, and expelled from his charge by bishop Landells of St. Andrews, who appointed in his stead

*Robert Walworth*, who seems to have deported himself with greater propriety, and was accordingly looked upon by his contemporaries with more respect. In 1368, he was appointed by David II. as an eligible person for assisting the Commissary of Lauder in the exercise of his new functions ; \* and in the following year a dispute, which pended between the nuns of St. Bathans and of Gulane, respecting the lands of Fenton in East Lothian, was submitted to his decision. His probity and superior qualifications induced the chapter of Durham to elect him their prior in 1374. He continued to hold that office till the year 1390, when he retired from the public services of the church upon a handsome provision.

*Robert Claxton*, a Durham monk, succeeded Walworth in the priorate, which he did not hold with so much credit. In 1379 he was summoned before William, bishop of St. Andrews, to answer to several serious charges of misconduct adduced against him. He was in the course of the ensuing year accused and convicted before the Scottish parliament of felony, exploring and revealing to the English the king's councils, and the private affairs of the state, and of purloining its revenues. Fordun, who communicates these circumstances regarding him, mistakingly calls him William. He was ejected from office, and expelled from the kingdom. He took refuge at Holy Island, where he seems

\* The Commissariate of Lauder was made to supersede, during the reign of David II., the ecclesiastic jurisdiction previously exercised by the archbishops of St. Andrews over the Merse.—Chalmer's Caledonia, vol. ii.

to have lived in a private capacity for several years. \* In 1397, however, he was elevated to the priorate of that monastery, which he held till his death, which happened four years afterwards. At the time of Claxton's expulsion from Coldingham, the priory was in such a state of misrule and desolation, that Robert II. determined upon withdrawing it from Durham, and annexing it to the Abbey of Dunfermline. Accordingly, on the 5th July 1378, with consent of the bishop of St. Andrews, he issued a charter to that effect, appointing a colony of Dunfermline monks to take up their abode in the priory. This mandate of the king, however, proved insufficient to alienate from the see of Durham one of its most ancient and valuable appendages, which was not effected till more than a century afterwards. † The name of Claxton's successor, Michael, is alone known.

*John Steel*, the next prior on record, was a person of some consequence. After having presided in our monastery for several years, he was elevated to the dignity of abbot of Lindores in Fifeshire, as appears from a note to the Cupar manuscript, quoted by Fordun in his chronicle.

*John de Akecliff*, or *Oakcliff*, was appointed prior in 1400–1, after a long competition with a monk of Dunfermline called Richard Mungal. During the turbulent regency of Albany, he was compelled to abdicate the office, and seek an asylum at Lindisferne, leaving

\* From the Account Roll of Holy Island Priory, we learn that prior Claxton paid at the rate of 2s. 6d. per week for board and lodgings. In the roll for the year 1380–1, the following entry occurs: "Received of Dom. Robert de Clakston for sixteen weeks, 40s." and again in 1381–2: "Received for the board (mensa) of Dom. Robert de Clakston £4."—Hist. N. Durham, vol. i. p. 109.

† See charter in Appendix, Part II.

his convent under the protection of the powerful Archbishop, earl of Douglas. Towards the end of his life he removed to Durham, where he died, and was buried in the year 1477.\*

*William Drax*, or *Drake*, who had been formerly sacrist, was, by charter dated at Falkland, 9th May 1418, admitted to the temporalities of the priory by Robert, duke of Albany; and, on the following year, he was formally instituted by Wardlaw, bishop of St. Andrews. William Brown, an eminent theologian of Dunfermline, strongly opposed his election; but James I. and his parliament, assembled at Perth, on the 26th May, 1424, declared Drax to be in lawful possession of the priorate. Fordun charges him with many crimes of a sacrilegious nature, with having instigated his countrymen, the English, to set fire to the monastery and its offices, in which were contained the images of the holy crucifix, the virgin Mary, and all that was calculated to excite veneration. He tells us that having so behaved, Drax fled into England, and never dared to re-enter the kingdom while the king lived.† The

\* In the inventory of Holy Island Priory, made up at Whitsunday 1401, at the death of prior Claxton, is the following entry:—"In the hands of D. John de Aclyf, prior of Coldingham, there is one book of Homilies;" and again in 1401-2,—“Received £6. 10s. for the board (co'ib's) of the prior of Coldingham, Dom. John Durham, and D. John Stele,” two of the monks, who had taken refuge there with Akecliff.—Hist. N. Durham, pp. 114, 115.

† Circa annum mccccxx, cum per sedem Apostolicam provisum fuerat de ipso prioratu cuidam monacho de Dumfermlyn, Willielmo Broun, bachallario tunc in sacra pagina, nunc vero magistro in theologia dignissimo, concurrente ad hanc electionem dictæ domus de Dumfermlyn, in eundem quidam Willielmus Drax monachus de Dunelmo intrusor, ejusdem post ipsius debitam amotionem et loci interdictum, ac processus aggravationis et reaggravationis in ipsum et fautores emissos favores ampliores ab incolis et magnatibus regni idem W. Drax adeptus, suæ propriæ salutis immemor, et monasticæ honestatis præ-

writer of the Cupar manuscript charges him with having surreptitiously possessed himself of a red volume, which contained a register of the infeftments and charters belonging to the priory, and of having delivered it up to the English, to the great prejudice of the Scots. It also appears that Drax and Alexander Home of Wedderburn devised a plan for robbing one James Colstoun, who had been deputed with six trusty men of the realm to transport to England the sum of two thousand merks, which were to be delivered up to the king of England on the Tuesday following the feast of Pentecost, in the year 1429. Hayne, the author to whom we are indebted for a knowledge of this plot of our prior, does not inform us of the purpose to which this large sum was to have been devoted; but in a note, states, that the ambassador, to whom the money was assigned, "was, near Colbrandspath, (Coulbrandispith) attacked by several men on stout horses, who inflicted upon the bearers many wounds, and carried off the bags (saccos) which contained the treasure, to a strong citadel nigh at hand, called Fastcastle (Faulst-castelle)." He was succeeded in 1441, by

*John Olle*, whose name frequently occurs in the chartulary, though little is known of his history. He was instituted to the priory by bishop Kennedy of St. Andrews, contrary to the wish of the abbot of Dunfermline, who favoured the pretensions of a monk belonging to his own establishment. In 1436, when Sir

varicator : illud notabile sanctuarium miro artificio et sumptuoso opere fabricatum, ecclesiam videlicet de Coldingham cum ejusdem officinis, in qua erant imagines Crucifixi, nostrae Dominae, et aliorum, et quod deterius est, homines Christianos ad veram imaginem Deificae Trinitatis sed et, quod omni crudelitate horribilius est, sacramentum corporis Christi in quantum in eo erat, incendio per manus Sathanae satellitum suae nationis Anglorum fecit concremari.—Fordun's Scotichronicon, vol. ii. p. 164 (Bower's Continuation).

Patrick Hepburn of Hailes held out the castle of Dunbar against his sovereign, he and several other borderers were taken prisoners, and compelled to come under certain obligations to the knight, from which they were released by a special mandate from James II. dated at Stirling, 28th April, in the tenth year of his reign, 1447; and on the same day the king laid an embargo upon the knight, prohibiting him, "under all pain and offence," from exacting what they had agreed to give. \*

*Thomas Ayer* succeeded him in 1449. He had, for some years previously, been prior of Holy Island, during which time an accusation appears to have been brought against him of being of *servile condition*. † While prior of Coldingham, we have met with no notices respecting him.

His successor was *John Pencher*, who was instituted by bishop Kennedy, and received a charter of the temporalities from James III. dated under the great seal at Edinburgh, 23d October, 1456.‡ Annoyed by the

\* See History N. Durham, Appendix 22.

† According to Mr. Raine, there is a curious document, dated 20th October, 1446, by which Ayer is acquitted of the above charge, bishop William declaring that the late prior Wessington had asserted, in presence of himself and convent, "quod ipse nunquam cognovit dominum Thomam Ayer, confratrem suum, subjectionis jugo alicui subesse aliquo qualiter vel subligari, nec unquam ab aliquo hominum audivit dictum, seu assertum aliquid, quod in lesionem bonae famae, seu liberae conditionis dicti Thomae Ayer, de jure vel de facto possit cedere vel redundare."

‡ The following is a transcript of the charter of James II. above alluded to. "Jacobus Dei gratia, &c. Quia venerabilem et religiosum virum Johannem Pencher ad temporalitatem prioratus de Coldinghame, recepto ab eo premitus solito juramento de fidelitate nobis et successoribus ac regno et ligiis nostris observanda admisimus et admittimus, per presentes uniuersis et singulis ligiis et subditis nostris quorum interest vel interesse poterit, stricte percipiendo mandamus quatinus



usurpation of Patrick and John Home, two canons of the collegiate church of Dunbar, who, supported by the influence of their kinsmen, Lord Home, had intruded themselves into the priory, Pencher found it expedient to abdicate his charge in 1469. He was then succeeded by

*Thomas Wren*, a monk of Durham, who had previously been *Master* of the small benedictine cell of Farne island.\* After an arduous litigation, he had the satisfaction of seeing the Homes expelled from the priory, and of continuing unmolested in the exercise of his office for upwards of ten years, till his death or resignation in 1483. The remarkable circumstances, hereafter recorded, in which the priory was involved during the next twenty years, may, in some measure, account for the obscurity which hangs over the history of its officers during that period. Indeed it has been doubted, whether, for the ensuing twenty years, an officer, holding the title of prior, presided in the convent. From the parliamentary records, however, it appears that a "prior of Coldingham" was appointed a member of the Privy Council, 5th June 1489; was present in parliament on the 7th February 1491, and on the 5th of the same month in the year 1505.† Their names are, so far as we are aware, unknown, though

dicto priori et suis officiariis in omnibus et singulis temporalitatem dicti prioratus concernentibus prompte respondeant, pareant et intendant sub omni pœna quæ competere poterit in hac parte. Datum sub magno sigillo nostro apud Edinburgh vicesimo tertio die mensis Octobris, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo sexto, et regni nostro vicesimo."—History N. Durham, Appendix 22.

\* Farne Island, on the coast of Northumberland, long employed as an hermitage by St. Cuthbert and others, had a small cell or priory subordinate to Durham, erected on it at the beginning of the thirteenth century, for the accommodation of six Benedictine monks.

† Acts of Scottish Parliament, vol. ii. pp. 220, 228, 262.

it is more than probable that they were members of the then powerful house of Home.

*Alexander Stuart*, natural son of James IV., in 1509—10, was appointed prior. By a dispensation from the pope, he was about the same time created archbishop of St. Andrews, and abbot of Dunfermline; and in 1511, he was elevated to the dignity of legate of the pope and chancellor of Scotland. He is described as having been a most amiable and accomplished youth, well versed in all the branches of scholarship in vogue at that day. By the celebrated Erasmus of Rotterdam, to whom his education while on the continent had been entrusted, his character and talents have been depicted in the most glowing and flattering colours. He did not survive long to enjoy his well-merited honours, but shared his father's hapless fate on the bloody field of Flodden, in September 1513.

The priorate was next conferred upon one of the eminent churchmen and politicians of his day—*Andrew Forman*, bishop of Moray. He is said to have been a member of the family of Forman of Hutton, in Berwickshire. While a young man, he assumed the monastic habit in the monastery of Arbroath, where he soon began to distinguish himself, not so much by his learning or application to clerical duties, as by his superior share of political sagacity. This, aided by his insinuating manners, introduced him to the notice of his sovereign James IV. by whom he was created bishop of Moray. He also enjoyed the friendship of Louis XII. of France, at whose court he remained for some time as ambassador. He had the merit of negotiating a peace between that monarch and pope Julius II., for which service the latter rewarded him with the archbishopric of Bourges in France, a seat in the Sacred College of Cardinals, and on his return to Scot-

land with the important office of papal legate. He also was appointed abbot of Dryburgh, and at the death of Alexander Stuart he aspired at the ecclesiastic dignities then left vacant. The priorate of Coldingham he succeeded in procuring, but he had scarcely held it a year, when he resigned it in favour of David, the seventh and youngest brother of Lord Home. He is said to have done so with a view to conciliating that powerful nobleman's interest in procuring his promotion to the archbishopric of St. Andrews, for which Gavin Douglas, bishop of Dunkeld, and James Hepburn, prior of the monastery of St. Andrews, were also candidates. Notwithstanding that the former of these had the influence of the queen-dowager, the latter that of the chapter and see, Forman, supported by the bull of the new pope, Leo X. and the influence of Lord Home, was elevated to the opulent office.

*David Home*, his successor, was included in the sentence of forfeiture passed against his brothers, and which was reversed in 1516. In the following year he fled with them into England, when he returned shortly afterwards under the protection of the earl of Angus, only to lose his life; for he was murdered by James Hepburn, aided by Hatcly of Mellerstan and other borderers, who thought to ingratiate themselves with the regent Albany, by avenging the assassination of De la Beautè. Godscroft furnishes us with the following particulars respecting him and his assassins. "David, the youngest, prior of Coldingham," says he, "was of a brisk enterprizing genius. Being at a distance from the court, he both was cautious with regard to his own personal safety, and had also frequent meetings and consultations with his friends with regard to what was most proper to be done. The inquiet minds of his enemies, who had polluted their hands

with his brothers' blood (Alexander Lord Home, and his brother William), thought that they were not safe while he survived. But the young man was not obnoxious to the laws, nor could any pretext be openly laid hold of for putting him to death; and as, on the other hand, he gave them no opportunity of doing it privately, it was agreed with James Hepburn of Hailes, his sister's husband, that he should do the horrid deed; nor did the innocence of the youth, or the sacred bond of affinity or friendship, give this wretch the least remorse for perpetrating this most shameful and scandalous crime. He invited out the young man to come and chat with him; he, dreading no harm, intrusting himself with him, his friend, his brother, and an attendant or two, went out upon the invitation, and was butchered to the grief of all, and even pitied by some who were partakers of the murder. One of these in ambiguous and doubtful admonitions told him to mount his swiftest horse, and consult for his safety by flight, which, he either not understanding, or not believing any danger near, was all in vain; so that while he was off his guard, he was slain by one, who, of all men, had least reason to do it. He was a young gentleman of a friendly and virtuous disposition, and a courteous behaviour; and, for his humility, was in the highest regard with the common people, insomuch that he had the title bestowed on him of *David the Innocent*. But though his death was not revenged by his friends, yet the curse of God, as generally happens, pursued the murderer; the Deity set apart to himself the glory of punishing such wretches. For, many years after, when Hepburn had arrived at a ripe old age, his body was bowed down, and drawn together in such a manner, that he could not stand but with his face always fixed upon the ground, and was reduced to

so great want, that, being carried to the street on a hurdle, he was there necessitate to beg his daily subsistence from passengers. This was very much spoken of at the time, and may serve as a striking example to posterity. He was even so pitied by his enemies, that John Home of Blackadder, when he was passing by him, refused to hearken to one of his vassals, who begged to be allowed to take revenge for the inhuman murder of his kinsman David. He, smiling, asked "What has he done to entitle him to this good office from you? nay, rather let him live this most miserable life, which is worse than death itself." Nor did the partakers of his crime meet with any better fate. Chirnside of East-Nesbit, Nesbit of that ilk, Haitly of Melerstane, all of them died in a wretched manner, a curse pursued their very memories; nor are they remembered in that country, but with disgrace and detestation for the murder of the *Innocent*, nor by any other name than *the wicked traitors*." \*

*Robert Blackadder* was appointed prior in January 1519, but, as formerly stated, was slain with six of his attendants by his inveterate enemy, David Home of Wedderburn, while hunting, on the 6th October of the same year. Holinshead informs us, that the scene of this slaughter was the village of Lamberton, while others allege that it occurred at Harecraigs, a place on the banks of the Eye, about a mile above the village of Ayton. †

*William Douglas*, brother of Archibald, earl of Angus, now seized the priorate with the aid of the daring knight of Wedderburn. He was opposed by Patrick

\* Lindsay's Chronicle of Scotland, p. 238. Ridpath's Bord. Hist. p. 505. MS. History of the Homes.

† MS. History of the Homes, Ridpath's Bord. Hist. p. 508. Holinshead's Chronicle, p. 306.

Blackadder, the cousin of the late prior and archdeacon of Dunblane, who wished to succeed his kinsman ; but this opponent was speedily removed by Wedderburn, by whom he was slain in a skirmish at the outskirts of Edinburgh. Prior Douglas, in 1522, was constituted, by his brother Angus, abbot of Holyrood, which gave great offence to the queen-dowager, whose consent had not been solicited. He acted a prominent part in the busy scenes of that turbulent period. A rupture occurring between Angus and the Homes, the latter used many unavailing efforts to expel him from the priory, over which, however, he continued to preside till his death in 1531. \*

His successor *Adam*, whose surname is unknown, held the priorate till the year 1541, when, according to Chalmers, he was translated to the abbacy of Dundrennan, in the county of Dumfries, to make way for

*John Stuart*, natural son of James V., who, though a mere infant, was created prior with the consent of the pope. The king enjoyed the revenues of Coldingham and the other abbies, which he had conferred upon his sons till their majority, by which, says Lesly, "there came no less monie unto his coffers, than did arise out of his kingly inheritance."† During prior

\* MS. History of the Homes, Godscroft's Hist. of the Douglasses, p. 251. Doug. Peer. (Wood's Edit.) vol. ii. p. 292.

† Chalmers' Caledonia, vol. ii. Ridpath's Bord. Hist. p. 542. While John Stuart became prior of Coldingham, his brother James received the abbies of Melrose and Kelso *in commendam*. To augment the revenues of these monasteries, the king proposed that the pope should grant the power of letting the tithes of, or belonging to, them for nineteen years, and the lands in leases of that duration, or perpetual fens. Writing to one of the cardinals, he describes them as small monasteries (monasteriola) situated on the borders of the kingdom, adjacent to some of the strongest places of the English, from which incursions used to be made into the Scottish borders, and, where heretical ser-

John's minority, the English, as has already been noticed, seized, and afterwards burnt the priory. He married Lady Jean Hepburn, daughter of James, fourth earl of Bothwell. The marriage was solemnized at Seton, on the 4th January 1561, queen Mary honouring the nuptials with her presence. He died in 1563, when on a northern circuit with his brother, the earl of Murray, at Inverness, leaving two sons, Francis and John, the former of whom afterwards became prior.\* He is described by Godscroft

mons being frequently preached, the contagion of these, by the sameness of the language, was easily spread. For checking both of these evils, he demanded these monasteries to be entrusted to his natural sons. The governor Arran asked the revenues of them to be employed for the service of the public, and particularly for the defence of the kingdom against the English; and that for that end, he might have the administration of them until the majority of the royal boys, all needful expences being first allowed out of them for their support, &c. Ep. RR. Sc. referred to by Ridpath.

\* See pages 63, 64. of the present volume. Doug. Peer. (Wood's Edit.) vol. i. pp. 229, 232. Godscroft tells us, that he made this tour to avoid the importunities of his wife, who wished him to assist Alexander Home of Manderston in robbing David Home of Wedderburn of the tiends of Kelloe, which was the ancient inheritance of his family. "During the prior's absence, his lady ordered the men of her faction to be present on a certain day, and to bring along with them wains, carts, and other things fit for carrying off the corns, all which was carefully done. But Wedderburn and his friends having gathered together about 500 men, hastened to the fields, and dissipated the scattered troops before they could unite themselves into one, broke the waggons, loosed the horses, and drove them away. On this, they all took themselves to flight, together with Stuart's wife. A few received some strokes, none were wounded, but so great was the terror struck into them, that they all sought hiding places. Some hid themselves among the whins and broom, others under the banks of the river, some in the fields of corn. One John Edington, commonly called *the Liar*, as he was always the bearer of false news, had hid himself in the *aumry* of a poor old womau, from whence he was drawn to the diversion of his

as "a man of a mild disposition, who cultivated the greatest familiarity with all the nobles in the county, particularly with Home of Wedderburn."

*Sir Alexander Home* of Manderston was appointed to the vacant priorate by queen Mary, whose cause he at first energetically espoused against her rebellious lords. Godscroft states, that the abbacy was bestowed upon him, with a view of enabling him to cover the great expences that he incurred in the service of his hapless princess. He did not, however, continue long steadfast to her fallen fortunes, as he appears upon the list of those who fell fighting against her at the battle of Langside, 13th May 1568. "He always entertained a numerous retinue, and himself and his dependants never failed to boast of his greatness. Whatever he did, was done with the greatest pomp and ostentation. He alone could cope with any nobleman in the kingdom, when he gathered together all his forces."\* He did not hold office till his death, but in 1565 was succeeded by

*Francis Stuart*, eldest son of the late prior John Stuart. The history of this turbulent individual is well known. King James VI. lavished upon him many honours and estates, notwithstanding that he was perpetually engaged in treasonable intrigues against him. The king created him earl of Bothwell, constable of Haddington, sheriff of Berwick, bailie of Lauderdale, and high admiral of Scotland. In 1595, however, he was obliged to flee the country, on James' release

enemies and his own great terror. This affair appeared afterwards so ridiculous, both to themselves and others, that Hepburn, who was a woman of a pretty good genius, and poetically inclined, described the whole in some verses."—MS. History of the Homes.

\* MS. History of the Homes.



from the confinement to which he had been subjected by him for some weeks in Holyrood-house. \* In 1624 he died at Naples, in obscurity and want. He was prior of Coldingham for little more than a year, having in the spring of 1565-6 resigned the priory to

*John Maitland*, second son of Sir Richard Maitland of Lethington, in exchange for the abbey of Kelso, of which the latter was commendator. Maitland had a letter of provision, under the great seal of the priory and monastery of Coldingham, for his life, 8th March 1565-6. † On his father's demise, 16th August 1567, he was appointed Keeper of the Privy Seal, and constituted an ordinary Lord of Session, 2d June 1568. He was forfeited for his adherence to the queen's party in 1570, deprived of his offices and benefices, and took refuge in the castle of Edinburgh. On its surrender in 1573, he was sent prisoner to Tantallon castle, but in February, 1574, the council passed an act, allowing him to remain with Lord High Chancellor Somerville, at his house of Couthellie, and two miles thereabout, under penalty of £10,000. In February 1578-9, he was released from captivity, and on the following year a letter of *rehabitation* of John Maitland, formerly commendator of Coldingham, passed the great seal. He was re-appointed Lord of Session, 26th April 1581, was knighted, and constituted Secretary of State for life, by letters patent, dated 18th May 1586; and by commission, of date 31st May 1586, in consequence of his successful exertions to bring about a reconciliation with the exiled nobles on their return to Scotland, in

\* Bothwell fled first to Caithness, then to France, and afterwards to Naples. At his death he left three sons and three daughters, who were restored to some of their father's estates and honours.—Douglas' Peer. 86.

† Crawford's Officers of State, p. 142.

the year previous, he was, by king James, appointed keeper of the great seal for life, with the title of vice-chancellor. In the following year, the Earls of Arran and Bothwell made several unsuccessful attempts to lower Maitland in the eyes of his sovereign. He was soon afterwards created high chancellor and a peer of the realm, by the title of Lord Maitland of Thirlestane. He died on the 3d October 1595, and was buried at Haddington, where a splendid monument, with an epitaph composed by James VI., was erected to his memory. Spottiswood describes him as "a man of rare parts, and of a deep wit, learned, full of courage, and most faithful to his king and master. No man did ever carry himself in his place more wisely, nor sustain it more courageously, against his enemies." \*

*Alexander, Lord Home*, who had rendered good service to his sovereign in quelling the insurrections of Bothwell, on the ejection of Maitland in 1570, had the priory and its revenues conferred upon him.† Being a papist, he was excommunicated by the church, to which he was compelled to make the usual humiliatory concessions. According to Calderwood, "he subscribed ye confession of faith at Edinburgh, in December 1593. He confessed, in the presence of God and his holy angels, that he professed from his heart the religion of the kirk here present, whereof he had already subscrivit the articles before the presbyterie of Edin-

\* Mag. Sigil. L. xxxv. 295. Id. L. xxxvi. 144. Doug. Peer. (Wood's Edit.) vol. ii. p. 69. Maitland made a Latin translation of king James' Epitaph on Sir Philip Sydney, and wrote a satire against "Sklanderling Tounes," and an admonition to the Regent Mar, printed by Pinkerton.

† Godscroft tells us, that the priory was, on Maitland's removal, offered to his kinsman, David Home of Wedderburn, who, from conscientious motives, declined to accept it.—MS. History.

burgh, promising to defend it to the uttermost : and abrenounced the Roman Catholic religioun as the antichristian religioun, and directly opposite to the truth of God, which he testified by holding up his hand, and solemnly testified before God, that he hath no disposition nor indult to subscribe nor swear to the above articles. In the fourteenth session he craved to be absolved from the sentence of excommunication. With a solemn oath, holding up his right hand, he agreed to the articles, and signed the same—to remove and hold out of his companie all papists and traffickers against the true religioun, and entertain in his house Mr Archibald Oswald as his ordinar pastor ; and failing of him, some other, by advice of the presbyterie of Dunbar—to resort to the hearing of the word, and to communicate—to make his familie, his tenants and servants subject to the discipline of the kirk—to repair ruinous kirks, and to provide sufficient stipends for ministers within his bounds—to have no intelligence with the excommunicate popish Lords, Jesuists, séminary priests or trafficking papists,” &c. &c. Birrel tells us, that he “ maid his repentance in the new kirk befor the assemblie upon his knies,” upon which the sentence of excommunication was removed.\* There is reason for supposing, however, that his Lordship’s contrition was more affected than real. He accompanied the king to England in 1603, and two years afterwards was created by him Earl of Home and March. He died 6th April, 1619, when

*John Stuart*, the second son of Francis, Earl of Bothwell, was constituted *commendator*, and, according to Spottiswood, he was the last who bore that title. He received a charter of the lands and baronies be-

\* Calderwood’s History of the Church of Scotland, p. 304. Birrel’s Diary, p. 33.

longing to the priory united into one barony, 19th October, 1621.\* To support him in his extravagant career, he alienated the greater part of the property thus acquired, in small lots, to private individuals; and the charters in possession of many of the small proprietors in the neighbourhood were granted by him.

In our monastery the *sacristan* or *sacrist* was the officer who ranked next in importance to the prior, and the right of electing him belonged to the chapter of Durham. Under his charge were deposited the ornaments employed for the decoration of the altar and church, the chalices and sacramental elements, the robes, candles, and, in short, all things requisite for the performance of their imposing worship. He was accountable yearly to the priors of Coldingham and Durham, and could be removed from the office at the pleasure of the latter.†

The first of these officers on record appears to have been *Gaufrid*, who has been already noticed as prior. In 1241, *Gregory* appears as sacrist; and in 1285, *Gilbert de Shireburn*. *Robert de Kellaw*, formerly chaplain of Eyemouth, and who appears from his name to

\* Spottiswood's Religious Houses. Douglas' Peer. (Wood's Edit.) vol. i. p. 333. His brother Henry had a charter of the *lordship of Coldingham*, 20th Nov. 1521; and his son Francis received a charter of the *burgh of barony of Coldingham*, 2d June 1638. Mag. Sigil. L. xlix. No. 442.

† Wilkin's Concilia; vol. i. p. 348. Transcript Chartulary of Coldingham in Advocates' Library, where there is an instrument, dated at Durham, 18th Jan. 1439, which contains the following notice relative to the sacristanship:—"Predecessores nostri pro libito suæ voluntatis unum de ipsis monachis ad custodiam dictæ ecclesiæ et ornamentorum ejusdem debite conservandam sub priore dicti prioratus deputarunt. Qui sacrista singulis annis priori dicti prioratus vel priori Dunelmensi erat computabilis, et ad nutum dicti prioris Dunelmensis removendus."

have been a native of Berwickshire, in 1340 held the office. But in April, 1345, he was excommunicated by Thomas, bishop of Durham, for having absconded with twenty-seven pounds, which belonged to the priory of Coldingham. He was afterwards absolved, and John Fosser, prior of Durham, sent letters of testimony upon the purgation of Robert de Kellaw, *the late sacrist*. \*

The *precentor*, or *cantor*, was another important personage. He presided in the service of the choir, was keeper of the seal of the priory, and of the chapter book, missals, breviaries, and festival robes. He was assisted by a *sub-cantor*. The *thesaurius*, or *treasurer*, had the charge of the revenues, and settled the accounts of the priory, for the accuracy of which he was responsible to the mother church of Durham, to which he required to make frequent journies. The *elemosinarius*, or *almoner*, distributed food and money among the paupers, who on certain days assembled at the gates of the convent, and also paid frequent visits to the sick at their own houses, for the purpose of supplying their wants. †

The *senescallus*, or *seneschal*, assisted in the prior's court, and transacted such business as the monks had with the king, or in the civil courts. The *camerarius*, or *chamberlain*, had the charge of the dormitory and of the wardrobe, and provided whatever was required by the prior when setting out upon a journey. The *cellerarius*, or *cellerar*, was the master of the household, who provided the victuals, wine, and other requisites for the supply of the table. The *dapifer*, or *refectioner*,

\* Chart. Coldingham. Chalmers' Caledonia, vol. ii.

† In 1320, Gaufre thesaurius prioratus de Coldingham appears. About the year 1284, Alan was *elemosinarius*; in 1304, Robert de Bowes, and in 1308, Ricardus de Cotesmore were *almoners* of the priory.—Wardrobe Acts in British Museum, Chart. Cold. *variis locis*.

had the charge of the plate, dishes, &c. and ordered the arrangement of the viands upon the table. The *hostiarius*, *hostler*, or *hospitaller*, was superintendant of the guest-house, and provided for the accommodation of strangers and pilgrims. Besides these officers, there was also an *infirmarius*, or *governor of the infirmary*, whose duty it was to furnish the medicines prescribed by the *medicus* or physician—a *marescallus*, who had the management of the stables—a *magister operis*, who surveyed the buildings and ordered repairs. The *forester*, *hunter*, *brewer*, *baker*, *cook*, *carpenter*, and a numerous train of subordinates, were laymen, many of them being married, and residing without the walls of the monastery. \*

Situated within a district which was the scene of almost perpetual warfare, and the tract by which the armies of Scotland and England usually penetrated into either kingdom, our monastery, as might be expected, was not exempted from the usual calamities of war. In 1214, king John of England having devastated the counties of York and Northumberland, in which

\* The first of the *seneschals* on record is *Gamellin*, who lived between the years 1166 and 1182. Between 1174 and 1214, *Gregory senescald de Cold* appears; and before 1242, *Rouland* held the office. In 1341, there was an agreement made by the prior and Adam de Prenderguest—"ubi remittentur varii redditus cum *Paschwating*, *assisis*, &c. in diversis locis ad terminum 14 annorum pro restitutione decimarum piscariæ de Twede et pro executione officii *senescalli*." About the year 1284, *Gualterus*, and in 1412, *Robertus* appear as *camerarii*. Between 1166 and 1182 *Guilielmus*, and before 1214, *Ricardus* were *cellerars*; and intermediate to the years 1115 and 1214, *Lambert*, *Alden*, *Radulf*, and *Walter*, held the office of *dapifer*. In 1304, *Adam fil Gualteri* appears as *hostiarius*. Between 1174 and 1214, *David*, *Alden*, and *Herveius*, and in 1342, *Gregory* officiated as *marescalli*. In 1392-3 *Herbert* was *medicus*.—Chart. Cold, Chart. Dunferm. Chal. Caled. vol. ii. Rolls of Scot. Parl. vol. ii.

were the principal strongholds of his disaffected barons, resolved to wreak his vengeance upon Alexander II., the young Scottish monarch, who had espoused their interests. Having stormed Berwick, he marched into Lothian, burnt the towns of Dunbar and Haddington, and laid waste the neighbouring country. Disappointed in his expectations of plunder, on his retreat he also pillaged and burnt the priory of Coldingham.\* During the succeeding century, notwithstanding that charters of protection were conferred by the kings of both nations, the monks were frequently reduced almost to a state of destitution, in consequence of the rapacity of their armies, and the equally destructive sallies of the border bandits. On several occasions, the prior and some of the fraternity found it expedient to abandon the convent from this cause, and take refuge at Holy Island. Unable longer to hold out against these grievances, the monks entrusted the charge of their establishment, about the year 1406, to one of the most powerful noblemen, and bravest warriors of that day, Archibald, Earl of Douglas, and afterwards Duke of Turenne; at the same time granting him full power to let their lands to whomsoever he

\* Lord Hailes' Annals, vol. i. p. 143, where reference is made to the Chronicle of Melrose, p. 190, and to Matthew Paris, p. 191. John also burnt the town of Berwick, and set the example to his brutal soldiery, by firing with his own hand the house in which he had lodged. In a note his lordship states, that, in 1291, Ed. I. among other records, carried off four, which would have thrown much light upon this transaction. 1. Charta Baronum Angliæ missa Regiæ Scotiæ contra Johannem Regem Angliæ. 2. Charta Baronum Angliæ et civium Londonensium missa Regi Scotiæ contra Regem Angliæ. 3. C. B. A. missa probis hominibus Harleol (Carlisle) contra Regem Angliæ de civitate Karl. reddenda Regi Scotiæ. 4. C. B. A. missa tenentibus Northumbriam, Cumbriam. et West Morl. contra Johannem Regem Angliæ.—Calendar of Ancient Charters, pp. 325, 327.

chose, levy their revenues, and hold courts for the amercement and punishment of transgressors; and for his services he was to receive an yearly pension of £100 Scots. But this great man was too much engaged in the civil and military transactions of the state to have much time to devote to the interests of the poor monks. He, therefore, in 1406, appointed as his substitute or bailiff, his retainer, Sir Alexander Home of Dunglass, to whom he granted a yearly pension of £20 Scots from his own salary. In this assignment, a copy of which is subjoined, the Earl styles himself *keeper to the lands and rents of the priory*. \* Douglas commanded the French and Scottish army of fourteen thousand men, at the battle of Verneil, on the 17th August, 1424, where both himself and Sir Alexander were slain. In 1422, the knight of Dunglass appears to have resigned the office of bailiff, when it was conferred upon his third son George; and at a meeting held at Buncle, on the 31st February, 1427, John, prior of Durham, constituted William Douglas, Earl of Angus and Lord of Liddisdale, *special protector* and

\* History of N. Durham, Appendix, pp. 34, 35. "Til al yat yir lettres herys or seis, Archebalde, Erle of Douglas & lorde of Galway, & Kepar to ye landis & ye rentis of ye priorie of Coldinghame Greting forthy yat we hafe made, ordanit, & stablisit our lufit scuyer & allie Alexander of Home, our substitute & kepare vnder vs of ye forsaide landis & rentis of Coldinghame, we will & grantis & be yir present lettres we gif to ye forsaide Alexander for his gude seruice til vs done, & to be done, ilke yher twenty punde of vsuale monay of Scotland of ye pension of a hundre punde aucht til vs yherly of ye forsaide priorie of Coldinghame ye qwhilke forsaide some of twenty punde we wil & assigne him to resaife of the fermis of ye forsaide priorie of Coldinghame in part of payment of our said pension yher be yher als lang as we sal be kepar to ye forsaide priorie, or as we sal hafe the pension of a hundreth punde beforsaide. In witness of ye qwhilk thing to yir lettres we hafe gert set our sele at London ye xxviiij day of October ye yher of our Lorde a thousande foure hundreth & sex."



*defender* of the priory and its appurtenances.\* He received for his yearly salary a hundred and thirteen merks, which was the rental derived from the lands of Brookholes, Deanwood, and Harewood, as appears from his letters of receipt preserved in the chartulary.† Sir David Home of Wedderburn was appointed bailiff by the prior and chapter of Durham, 16th September, 1441, but resigned the office very soon afterwards to his cousin, Sir Alexander Home of Dunglass, who was appointed his successor, with a pension of ten pounds, on the 4th January of the ensuing year. The knight of Wedderburn made many attempts to be reinstated in the office which he had voluntarily resigned, but the chapter of Durham, on the 16th March, 1449, issued a testimonial, declaring that he had been *duly paid* and *asseithed* by the late prior, John Olle, for the time that he had officiated. A serious dispute between these rival clansmen, attended with considerable bloodshed, followed this decision; and to procure a reconciliation, it was found necessary, during the same year, to bestow an equal share of the emoluments upon both, by appointing Sir David and Sir Alexander *joint bailiffs*. At the death of the latter, in 1456, his son Alexander, who was afterwards created

\* See "Litera Procuratoria Prioris et Capituli Ecclesiae Dunelmensis concessa Comiti de Angus suo protectori et defensori," in the Chartulary.

† On the 10th March, 1429, these lands were let to Thomas Atkynson of Buncle and his wife for 15 years, the tenants and "*their servants dwelling within the sayd woods & lands, being allowed resonable estiment of fewell, of fallen & dede woode, for cutyn wast of whilk wood, the whilk may serve for tymber, by the deliverance of the Priour of Coldingham or his officers. Also tymber for bygging of new housys and repairing them, & also for plewys & harous for tilth. Neither the tenants nor their servants sall hald nor have na swyne nor gays, & sall be sworne to be lele & trewe to the keeping of the said wode, warren, & venison for the tyme that they dwell therein.*"—Chart, Cold.

Lord Home, was appointed his successor by the prior and convent, and, in 1466, he was constituted *hereditary bailiff*. His family, who had at this time attained a degree of power scarcely surpassed by any other in the kingdom, and no longer placed under the *surveillance* of the powerful house of Douglas, now viewed with invidious eyes the rich revenues enjoyed by the prior and monks, and resolved on making them their own. Accordingly, they commenced by seriously annoying the new prior Pencher, who had been instituted in the same year as Sir Alexander, and afterwards compelled him, with many of the monks, to flee from the monastery. John and Patrick Home, prebendaries of the collegiate church of Dunbar, were appointed by their kinsman, the bailiff, without consulting the mother church of Durham, nor yet the chapter of St. Andrews, to fill up the offices thus left vacant. A usurpation so unprecedented, it may readily be conceived, was, by no means, passively tolerated. Portentous threats, followed by an appeal to the pope, were launched against the intruders in vain. Relying more on their military resources than on the justice of their cause, they held the sentence of excommunication that was pronounced against them at defiance.\* For nearly twenty years they persisted in their usurpation. In 1474, however, a powerful opponent arose in the Duke of Albany, who was created Earl of March, and, as such, began to assert his right to many of the estates and offices upon the marches, which the Homes had retained unmolested since the forfeiture of their ancient superiors, the Earls of Dunbar. Successful

\* Besides the bull of the pope Sextus IV. the kings of England and Scotland, Edward IV. and James II. issued precepts against the intruders.—Chart. Cold.

resistance to an individual whose authority would be supported by the whole strength of the kingdom, was scarcely to be expected. The Homes, therefore, found themselves compelled to make many reluctant concessions, and their chieftain was permitted to retain the bailliery of Coldingham, and the emoluments annexed to it.

But a blow from another quarter was about to be levelled, which threatened to prove equally disastrous to the Homes as to the monastery itself. James III. had, about this period, caused to be erected, at immense expence, a chapel-royal at Stirling, which, in the elegance of its architecture, and in the number of its functionaries, he designed should eclipse all the other religious establishments of the kingdom. But finding that the support of this splendid edifice would bear too heavily upon the royal revenues, he resolved on raising the necessary supplies by the suppression of some other religious house, and by annexing its property to his favourite chapel. The priory of Coldingham, for several reasons, appeared to him the most suitable for sacrificing to this extravagant project. Its revenues would at once supply him with the means of making a princely endowment, and from its being inhabited for the most part by English monks, who, during his own reign and that of his predecessors, had often shown themselves disaffected to the interests of the nation, and, from its situation in a part of the kingdom where the executive power of the laws could with difficulty be applied, he conceived that, by dissolving it, he would also confer a great boon upon his subjects. Accordingly, in 1485, he laid his scheme before the parliament, who passed an act of annexation; and dispatched the archbishop of St. Andrews and others to Rome to procure the consent of pope Innocent

VIII. \* The envoys soon returned, bearing with them a papal bull, sanctioning the suppression of the priory, and enacting that one half of its revenues should be applied to the support of the chapel-royal at Stirling, the remainder to the erection of a collegiate church at Coldingham.† However politic to James and his parliament these enactments may have appeared, by Lord Home and his kinsmen they were considered as acts of the grossest injustice, and as such they energetically opposed their enforcement. The commissioners dispatched by the see of St. Andrews to the priory, for the purpose of formally dissolving it, were compelled to retrace their steps at the peril of their lives. Offers of indemnification, and the denunciations of James and his emissaries, were alternately employed in vain upon the Homes, who, from passive resistance, at length broke forth into open rebellion, with the daring design of dethroning the king.‡

\* They received the following commission:—"And thai (i. e. the archbishop of St. Andrews and others) sal impetrair ane erectioun of Coldingham to our soueran lordis chapell in the best forme, outhir be commissioun, or vther wais as thai think maist expedient, and may best gett, with decrete of divisioun of the samyn priorie, into prebendis be extincioun of religioun, & the ereccioun maid befor be our haly faderis predecessoris and vmquhil the cardinale of Rowane, commissar and juge in the samyn."—Acts of Scott. Parliament (1814) vol. ii. p. 171.

† "Ad supprimendum prioratum de Coldingham; ut ex ejus redditibus una medietas applicaretur ad sustentationem Capellæ Regiæ, altera ad erectionem ecclesiæ collegiatae apud Coldingham."—Bull of Innocent VIII. in Chart. Cold.

‡ At the parliament held at Edinburgh, in January 1487, the following acts passed.—"Anent the vnion & erectioun of the priory of Coldingham to the kingis chapell—It is avisit, grantit, & ordanit be our souerain lord, be avise of the three estates, that inhibicioun be given to all his lieges spirituale and temporale, that nane of thame tak apounne hand to do or attempt ocht to be done contrar the vnioun & erectioun made of the priory of Coldingham to his chapelle riale, or to

Other malcontents espoused their cause, and rallied round the standard of rebellion uplifted by the Homes. The Earls of Angus, Argyle, and Lennox, Sir Patrick Hepburn of Hailes, the sheriff of Berwickshire, with most of those barons in the south and west who had anciently been vassals of the house of Douglas, entered eagerly into the conspiracy, and soon collected together followers to the number of about eighteen thousand men. To secure in places of strength, the two objects dearest to him on earth—his son and his treasure—was the first object of James on receiving intelligence of the formidable force which the Homes and their allies were leading against him. The former he entrusted to Shaw of Sauchie, the governor of Stirling Castle, on whose loyalty he placed great reliance; the other he deposited in the castle of Edinburgh, under the care of one in whom he had equal confidence. But the hearts of these men were by no means proof against the bribes which the insur-

mak ony impetracioun thereof at the court of Rome, or to public or use outhir bullis or processis purchest or to be purchest contrar the said vnion & ereccioun, vnder the pain of tressoun, tinsale, and forfaltur of life, land, and gudes." "Item auent the mater of Coldinghame twiching the kingis chapel, It is statute aud ordanit, that sein in the last parliament thare was ane act and statute made & proclamit, that nane of our souerane lordis liegis spirituale nor temporale suld do or attempt to do ocht incontrar the erecioun made of Coldingham, &c. that therefore the temporale personis that hes attemptit or done ocht incontrar the said act & statute, be sumond to a certane day of Maij next to cum to ansuer apone the said crimes. And this parliament be continewit to the said day. And becaus it is heavy to trauale the hale estatis to the said parliament, that thair be certane personis of ilk estate chosin & nemyt to have the power of the hale parliament to procede in the said mater, & to commune & conclude apone sic uther materis as sal occur in the mene tyme, and to the spirituale persones, that the kingis hienes mak thaim be callit be thair ordinaris, & persewit & followit befor thaim, & to be punyst according to justice."—Acts of Scott. Parliament, vol. ii. pp. 179, 182.

gents held out to them, and by which they succeeded in gaining possession of both. The newly-created Duke of Montrose, and other northern earls, with their followers, hastened to the aid of their sovereign, and mustered an army of about thirty thousand men. The hostile forces encountered each other at Sauchie-burn, near Stirling, on the 11th June, 1488; but no sooner did the king perceive that the troops of the conspirators were headed by his own son, than the little courage with which nature had fortified him died away. Heart-broken he abandoned the field, where the air already reverberated with the victorious acclamations of the foe, fell from his horse, and was afterwards stabbed through the heart. His army, already thrown into disorder by the rebel bowmen, and dispirited by their sovereign's disappearance, made no further resistance, but took to flight.

Such was the lamentable result of James' attempt to alienate from the Homes the revenues of Coldingham priory. Their chieftain, the bailiff, who had acted so prominent a part in the tragedy, did not survive long enough to reap those favours from his sovereign which he expected in reward for his services in having elevated him prematurely to the throne.\* These, however, were copiously showered by the young monarch upon his successor and grandson, Alexander Lord Home, who was successively appointed to the high offices of lord chamberlain for life, a member of the privy council, captain of Stirling Castle, and warden of the three Scottish marches.

From the period of the battle of Sauchie, till the commencement of the following century, the history of

\* Chalmers on the authority of the Parliamentary Records, pp. 361, 367, infers, that Lord Home died between February 1490 and April 1491.—Chal. Cal. vol. ii.

the priory is involved in obscurity, neither the chartularies nor parliamentary records tending to throw light upon the subject. It is more than probable, that Lord Home, who enjoyed so many high honours, was allowed to retain undisputed possession of it; as, on the 15th November, 1500, the parliament passed an act confirming to him a third part of its revenues. \* Two years before his death, however, on the 8th June, 1504, another act passed annexing the priory to the crown; and, in 1509, the project originally devised by Robert II. was successfully carried into effect. In that year, by order of the pope, Julius II. the monastery was finally withdrawn from the church of Durham, to which it had been subordinate from the time of its foundation, and unalienably annexed to the abbey of Dunfermline. † Under this new jurisdiction it continued till the eventful year 1560, when, in common with the other monastic establishments of Scotland, it sustained a final overthrow.

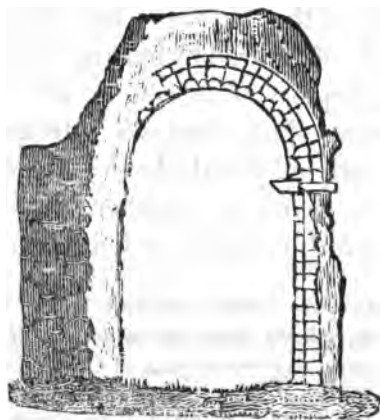
The remains of the priory are insignificant indeed, when contrasted with its ancient importance as a religious house, the greater part of the buildings which had withstood the ravages of time, and the artillery of the regent Arran and of Cromwell, having been sacrilegiously applied by the inhabitants of the village to the construction and repairing of their houses. ‡ The church of the monastery which was dedicated to St. Mary, appears to have been a magnificent structure.

\* Unprinted Act of Parliament, quoted by Chalmers.

† Junius' Manuscript Chronicle, Royal Letters, vol. i. p. 108, referred to by Chalmers.

‡ The ruins of the cloisters and other buildings scattered around the church, are said to have been formerly so extensive and labyrinthine, that it was reckoned a feat of no ordinary difficulty for a person led among them blind-folded to make his way out from among them.

It was built in the form of a cross, the remains of its choir exhibiting a beautiful specimen of the transition from the Norman to the early English style of architecture. The foundations of the walls of its nave are alone traceable, but from measurement, its area is ascertained to have been of the same dimensions as that of the choir, viz. 90 feet in length and 25 in breadth. It does not seem to have been situated in a direct line with the choir, but to have diverged a few feet to the south—a peculiarity observable in the construction of several other abbey-churches, but not very easily accounted for. The length of its transept internally was 41, and its width 34 feet. \* Of this part of the building two arches are standing. The largest of them is circular, ornamented with coarse moulding, and appears



to have been one of the principal entrances; the other is low and somewhat angular, and probably formed a portion of the aisle of the transept. The

\* These measurements were made several years ago by Mr. Hamilton, Coldingham, when the foundations could be traced much more distinctly than at present.



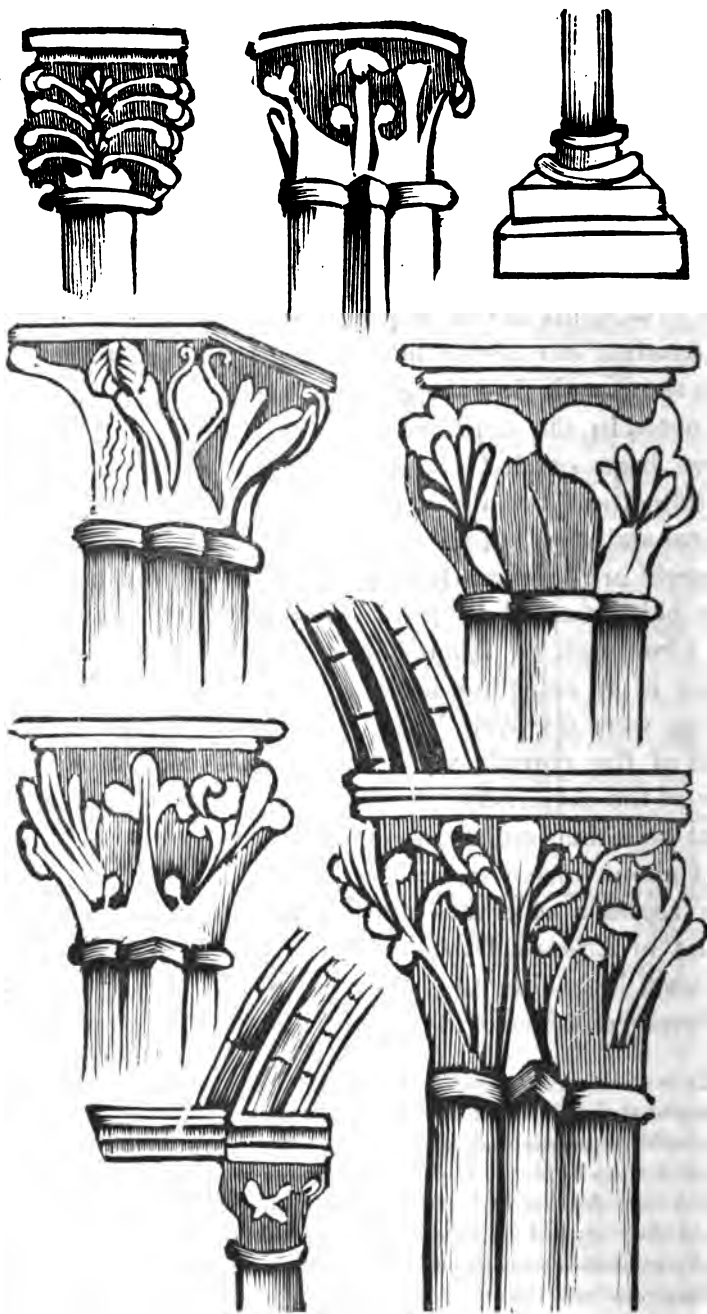
north-west angle of the transept was fortified by a massive square tower, which fell about sixty years ago; and is said by some old people who remember it, to have been upwards of 90 feet high. \* The exterior of the northern and eastern walls of the choir, which form half of the present parish church, present inferiorly a series of Norman arches, arranged in pairs, and decorated with Chiffon moulding, each arch being united to its fellow mesially by one slender circular column, surmounted by a plain and unornamented capital, and separated from each succeeding pair by a projecting buttress. The upper part of the wall indicates a more advanced style of architecture, in a range of lancet-shaped windows, with massive canopies. † The interior of these walls is ornamented below with circular arches, resting on corbals, almost similar to those of the exterior, but which were some years ago greatly disfigured by cutting away their shafts, for the paltry purpose of adding a few inches to the size of the pews. The windows internally are long, narrow, and nearly elliptical above; those of the north wall, which are seven in number, having two deep niches about two-thirds of their height intermediate to

\* The inhabitants of the district, who were, for the most part, episcopalians and royalists, offered some opposition to Oliver Cromwell, as he past with his army along the heights of Coldingham-moor, in September 1648, and defended themselves in this tower against a detachment of troops, which, with a few pieces of cannon, was sent down to chastise them. After a siege of two days, the tower was so shattered by the artillery, that the defenders were obliged to capitulate. A quantity of gunpowder was then deposited in the church, which, being ignited, produced such an explosion as levelled its south wall with the ground. The soldiers are said to have carried off the abbey-bell, which is still preserved at Lincoln.

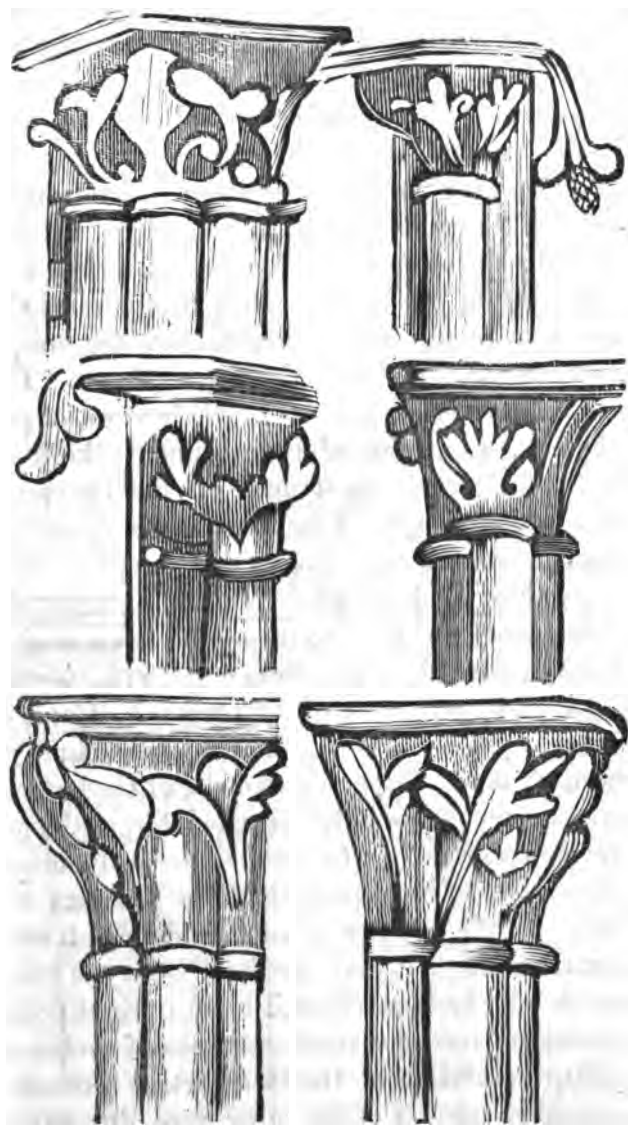
† At the foot of this wall are interred the remains of the Rev. John Dysart, and several other presbyterian clergymen of Coldingham.

them, while the three windows of the eastern wall have only one separating niche. The columns of both arches and niches are plain and clustered. The capitals from which the arch springs are richly adorned with foliage, and it is remarkable, that throughout the whole range of these walls, it is impossible to discover the ornaments of one capital exactly similar to those of another, nor are the pedestals of the pillars precisely the same. Behind these is an arcade or gallery constructed in the heart of the wall, which appears to have been carried round the whole interior of the building, and to have communicated with the different spiral stair-ways at its angles. The other walls of the church are comparatively modern, the south one having been erected in 1662, soon after its demolition by Cromwell.\* About forty years ago the foundations of an octagonal building, of neatly dressed free-stone, were discovered thirty yards from the eastern wall of the church, which was in all probability the site of the *chapter-house*, in which the prior and convent held their courts, and elected their officers. Distant about thirty-five paces from the south wall stand the remains of a very ancient building, bearing the name of *Edgar's Walls*, which, as has been already noticed, is traditionally reported to have been the occasional residence of the royal founder of the priory. It

\* It is said that Home of Coldingham-law, a staunch royalist, was so overjoyed at the Restoration, that he immediately employed workmen to rebuild the south wall, and otherwise repair the church, so as to render it again fit for the celebration of divine service. He afterwards applied to his brother heritors for indemnification, who refused on the ground that they had not been consulted in the matter; whereupon the worthy gentleman solicited and obtained from them a perpetual grant of a large seat near the pulpit, over which he erected a splendid canopy. The seat still remains hereditary in the family, but the canopy, alas! has long since disappeared.



*Capitals of the Pillars of the North and East Walls.*

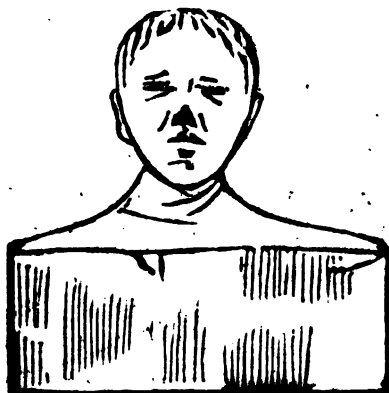


*Capitals of the Pillars of the North and East Walls.*

seems from its foundations to have been about fifty feet in length, but only eighteen broad. Some detached fragments which stood on a spot, now a garden, at its western extremity, were long known by the name of the *King's stables*. The situation of the cloisters, refectory, and other buildings, can only be conjectured, the ground on which they probably stood having been long under cultivation. On removing a portion of the ruins about fifty years ago, the bones of a female skeleton were discovered, inclosed in a niche in one of the walls, which, from its position, and the narrowness of the depositary, are supposed to have been the remains of an *immured nun*. For to those female votaries who broke their vows of perpetual chastity, was awarded a punishment like that inflicted in similar circumstances on the Roman vestals in an earlier age. Placed within a space barely sufficient to contain her body, and supplied with a scanty pittance of food and water, the unhappy delinquent was consigned alive to the tomb. Two sandals of thin leather, furnished with latches of silk, were also found lying at the bottom of the recess. \* Could it be satisfactorily proved that the skeleton was actually that of a nun, all doubt respecting the site of the last of the *double monasteries* would be dispelled, for, as the priory was devoted exclusively to monks, the body must necessarily have been deposited there previous to its erection. In the absence of such evidence, it may be questioned whether it may not have been the remains of a monk who had been buried in an upright posture; there being on record several instances of such a mode of sepulture practised in the Benedictine monasteries. From another portion of the ruins were dug out three

\* The sandals were long in the possession of the late Mr. Johnston, factor to the estate of Billy.

or four rudely sculptured busts, apparently intended to commemorate the spontaneous mutilation of Ebba and her nuns, noticed at a former page. Annexed is a delineation of one of them which has been preserved.



In a dean a little westward from the village, is a spring of excellent water, called St. Andrew's Well, from which the monastery used to be supplied by leaden conduits, portions of which are occasionally exposed. On several of the eminences in the neighbourhood, stood in former days a number of stone crosses, which served to mark the limits of the sanctuary. None of them are still standing, but the places called Cairncross, Friarscross, Crosslaw, Whitecross, and Applincross, seem to have derived from them their names.\*

\* There is a tradition, that, in the year 1645, when the plague was raging in Scotland, the infection was brought from Leith or Fisherow, to the small fishing village of Northfield, a little southward of St. Abb's head, and that the inhabitants of Coldingham, who supplied the sick with provisions, used to deposit them at Applin-cross, which stood about half way between the two villages, to avoid contact with the diseased. The late Mr. Dickson, tenant of Northfield, opened a large earthen mound, which had long been studiously avoided by the ploughman as the spot where the "plague was buried," when a quantity of human bones, *meal-arks*, and fragments of decayed cloth, were exposed, sole relics of the direful pestilence.

A singular stone has been lately discovered, which may perhaps have formed part of one of these ancient columns. On one side are sculptured two figures;



that on the right seems designed to represent our Saviour, holding in one hand a book, with the other raised in the attitude of prayer. Over their heads are the initial letters of *Jesus Salvator Hominum*, Jesus the Saviour of Men, with the words *In Galilea* in full. On another side are two figures of more elaborate workmanship, representing the figure of a female and an eagle, both of which are enveloped in a fasciculus of stony wreaths. \*

Before concluding, it will be necessary briefly to notice the churches and chapels subordinate to the priory. Besides those situated within Coldinghamshire, and already described, the monks possessed, 1. The *church of Edrom*, of which they received a grant from

\* The first of these stones is in possession of Mr. Hamilton, Coldingham, the other is preserved by Mr. Duncan, surgeon, Eyemouth.

Cospatrick, Earl of Dunbar, which was confirmed to them by David I. at Roxburgh, in September 1139.\* It was rated in the ancient *taxatio* at 100 merks, being more highly assessed than any other church in the deanery of the Merse, excepting that of Coldingham, which with its chapel contributed 120 merks. 2. The *church of the Holy Trinity* at Berwick, founded and endowed by Anthony Bec, bishop of Durham, between the years 1282 and 1309. William, its vicar, swore fealty to Edward I. at Berwick, 24th Aug. 1296; and in 1368, it was agreed that its perpetual vicar *John de Insula sacra* should receive a yearly stipend of £20 from Robert Walworth, prior of Coldingham, or his successors, with a proportion of the wax tapers bestowed upon the church at the feast of the Virgin's purification; and at the same time the vicar agreed to sustain all burdens incumbent on the church, except the expence of erecting and repairing the chancel, which was to devolve on the monks of Coldingham.† 3. The *churches of Fishwick and Swinton*, of which the monks received a confirmatory charter from Robert, bishop of St. Andrews, in 1250, at Berwick. The donation of the former was afterwards ratified by an *inspeximus* charter of Robert III. In the *taxatio* the church of Fishwick was valued at thirty, that of Swinton at thirty-five merks. 4. The *church of Ednam* in Roxburghshire, founded by the Saxon Thor Longus, during the reign of Edgar, with the chapels of Newton, Nenthorn, and Nesbit. 5. The *church of Earlston, or Ersildun*, grant-

\* See History N. Durham, Appendix and Chart. Coldingham, where there are several charters of the Earls of Dunbar and bishops of St. Andrews, respecting the church of Edrom.

† Deed entitled "Ordinatio vicarii ecclesiae St. Trinitatis de Berwick unitae cellae de Coldingham."—Hodgson's Hist. Northumberland, vol. ii. p. 145.



ed about the middle of the twelfth century, by Walter de Lindsay, to the monks of Kelso, who, in 1171, exchanged it and the church of St. Lawrence at Berwick, for the church of Gordon in Berwickshire. 6. The *Chapel of Stichel*, regarding which the monks had many disputes. It was rated at thirty-five merks. 7. The *church of Smalham*, or *Smailholm*, granted by Walter Olifard, Justiciary of Lothian, who died in 1242. It was rated in the *taxatio* at forty-five merks. \*

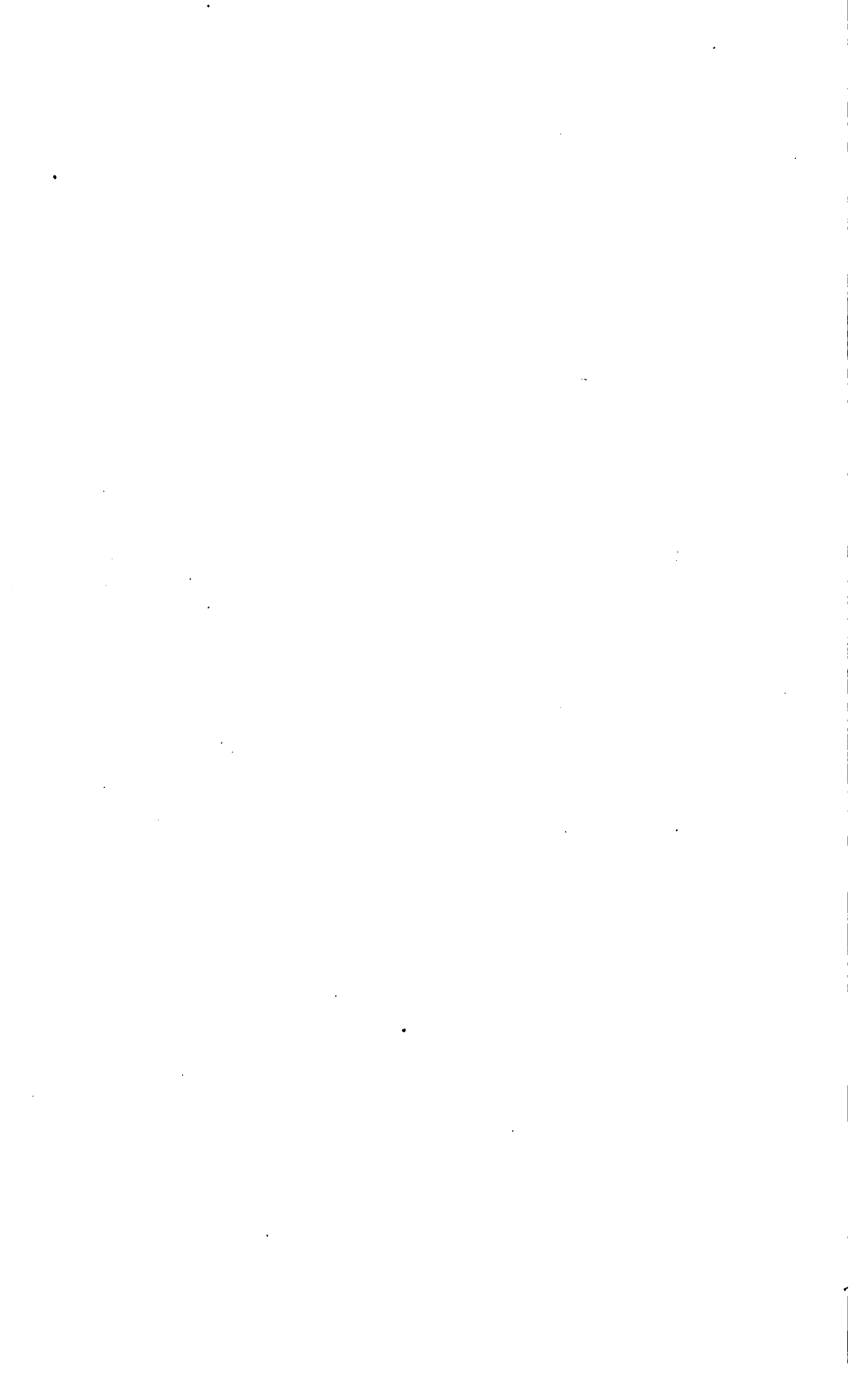
\* Chartularies of Coldingham and Arbroath.



J. Sinclair, Del.

J. Brown, Sc.

INTERIOR VIEW OF COLDINGHAM CHURCH.



## APPENDIX TO PART SECOND.

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### No. 1.

#### *Charters of King Edgar.*

1. **EADGAR** rex Scottorum. Omnibus suis hominibus scottis et anglis salutem. Sciatis quod ego do in elemosinam Deo omnipotenti et Sancto Cuthberto domino meo · et ecclesiæ dunelmensi et monachis in eadem ecclesia Deo seruiantibus et in perpetuum seruituris pro animabus patris mei et matris meæ · et pro salute corporis mei et animæ meæ et fratrum meorum et sororum mearum et pro omnibus antecessoribus et successoribus meis mansionem de Coldingaham · et cum ista mansione has subscriptas mansiones · scilicet Aldcambus Lummesdene Regnintum Restun Swinewe Farndun Eitun Aliam Eitun Prenegeest · Cramesmuth · Has superscriptas mansiones concedo Deo et Sancto predicto et monachis ejus cum omnibus terris · siluis · et aquis · et teloneis et fracturis navium et omnibus consuetudinibus quæ pertinent ad predictas mansiones et quas pater meus habuit quietas et solidas secundum uolentatem illorum in perpetuum libere disponendas.

2. Edgarus Dei gratia, &c. &c. Sciatis me dedisse, &c. sancto confessori Cuthberto et monachis ejus pro animabus patris, &c. Coldingham et omnes illas terras quas habent in Lodoneo \* ita liberas et quietas cum omnibus consuetudinibus sicut eas ego ipse habui in mea propria manu · Et volo et precipio omnibus meis hominibus ut nullus illorum eis aliquam molestiam vel injuriam inde faciat vel hanc meam donationem infringat · sed in pace quiete et honorifice in perpetuum habeant eas et teneant.

3. Eadgarus rex Scottorum, &c. &c. Sciatis me ad dedicationem uenisse ecclesiæ Sanctæ Mariæ apud Coldingaham quæ quidem dedi-

\* These lands were Tiningham, Aldham, Scoughall, Cnolle, Hatherwick, and Broxmouthe, of which they had received a grant from King Duncan.—See Appendix to Raines' N. Durham, vol. i.

catio ad Dei laudem et ad meum placitum grata omnibus et accepta honorabiliter est adimpleta . et ego eidem ecclesiae super altare obtuli in dotem . et donavi villam totam Swintun cum diuisis sicut Liulf habuit . liberam et quietam in perpetuum habendam ab omni calumpnia . et ad voluntatem Monachorum Sancti Cuthberti desponendam . pro animabus patris, &c. Donavi etiam monachis **xxiiii** animalia ad restaurandam illam eandem terram . et constitui eandem pacem in Coldingham eundo et redeundo et ibidem manendo quae servatur in Eilande . et in Northam . Insuper etiam statui hominibus in Coldingahamscire sicut ipsi elegerent et in manu mea firmaverent . ut unoquoque anno de unaquaque carruca . dimidiam marcam argenti monachis persolvant. Testibus . Ælfw' . oter . et Thor longo Ælfric' pincerna . et Algaro presbitero et Osberno presbytero et Cnut carl . et Ogga et Lefing . et Swein ulfkills . et Ligulf de Bebbanburch . et Vhtred Eilanes sune . et Uniaet hwite . et Tigerne.

4. In nomine patris et filii et spiritus sancti Amen. Notum sit omnibus hominibus fidelibus presentibus et futuris quod Ego Edgarus filius Malcolmi Regis Scottorum totam terram de Lodoneio et Regnum Scotiae dono Domini mei Willelmi Anglorum Regis et paterna hereditate possidens consilio predicti Domini mei Regis . W. Et fidelium meorum pro animabus, &c. do deo omnipotenti et Ecclesiae Dunelmensi et Sancto Cuthberto glorioso pontifici et Willelmo episcopo et monachis in eadem ecclesia Deo servientibus et id perpetuum servituris mansionem de Berwic et cum ista mansionem has subscriptas mansiones . scilicet Greiden . leinhale . dilsterhalle . brygham . Edrem . Chirnesid . Hilton . Blakedir . Chynbrygham . huton . Regninton . Paxton . Fulden . Morthyngton . lamberton . Aliam lamberton . Hadrynton . ffyschewike . Horford . Vpsetinton . et mansionem de Collingam et cum ista mansionem has subscriptas mansiones scilicet Aldcambus . lumsdean . Reston . Suineston . faudon . Ayton . aliam Ayton . Prendergest . Cramsmouth . Hadynton . has superscriptas mansiones do Deo et Sancto Cuthberto cum omnibus terris et silvis et aquis et theloneis et fracturis navium, &c. &c. (It concludes in the same way as No. 1. The King's seal is appended to it by a silk thread, having upon it a figure of Edgar in a sitting posture, with a small crown upon his head, holding in one hand a sceptre, in the other a sword, with the circumscription "Imago Edgari Scottorum Regis." The seals of his brother Alexander, Edgar Atheling, and several others, are likewise attached to it.)

## No. 2.

*Charters of David I.*

## 1. Charter determining the boundaries between Coldinghamshire and Buncle.

David Rex Scottorum Abbatibus · Comitibus Baronibus Justiciis et omnibus probis hominibus suis Scottis et Anglis tocius terrae suae salutem : Sciant presentes et futuri me concessisse et hac mea charta confirmasse Divisas inter Coldingham et Bonekil quas ego cum probis hominibus meis perambulare feci in perpetuum tenendas libere et quiete et plenarie · scilicet a Midlesdeneneued per Mereburnesheued usque occidentem usque ad Crachoctre et inde per eandem stratam usque ad Eiford. Testibus his · Johanne Glascuensis episcopo. Herberto cancellario. R. de Brus et aliis · Apud Rokesbure.

2. Charter confirming to the monks their lands, with the valuable privileges of *sacca, socna, toll, team, and infangthief*.

David dei gratia &c. &c. Sciatis me concessisse &c. deo, & sancto Cuthberto & monachis ejus de dunelmo in elemosinam has terras in Lodoneio scilicet Coldingham, Aldcambus, Lumesdene, Ristun Rein- infune. Swinewe; Prenegost Eitun et aliam Eitun & Cramemutham, Lambertun & aliam Lambertun. Paxtun. Fiswic, & Swintun. Omnes has superscriptas terras ego do & concedo deo &c. cum saca et socna & toll & team & infangethiefe cum omnibus terris & silvis &c. liberas et quietas ab omni ope & servicio pro salute animae meae & filii mei Henrici &c. Precipio etiam & defendo ne aliquis de hac mea donatione aliquam injuriam vel molestiam aut calumpniam monachis sancti Cuthberti de Dunelmo faciat quia volo ut haec mea elemosina libera et quietas ab omni calumpnia in perpetuum remaneat. Haec Charta firmata anno ab incarnatione Domini MCXXXVI tercio anno regni mei apud Pebles teste et concessu Henrici filii mei et isti alii sunt inde testes. · Johannes episcopus Robertus de brus Herebertus cancellarius Ascolinus archidiaconus et alii.

## No. 3.

*Charter of Robert, Bishop of St. Andrews, conferring on the Priory the Privileges of Can, Cuneved, &c. (date 1127), from the Transcript Chartulary in Advocates' Library.*

Omnibus Sanctae Matris Ecclesiae fidelibus Clericis et Laicis tam presentibus quam futuris Robertus Dei gratia Sancti Andree Episcopus

Salutem. Notum sit vobis omnibus quod nos coram Dno. nostro Rege David et Justina Archiepiscopo Eboracensi et Ranulfo Dunelm. Episcopo Glasuin et Gaufrido abbate Sti Albani et alijs multis personis convocavimus Algarum Priorem Sti Cuthberti de Dunelmo ante hostium Ecclesiae Sti Johannis Evangelistae in Rokisburc ibiq. quantum ad Episcopalem auctoritatem pertinet, presentis carte attestatione et munimine clamavimus concessimus et confirmavimus Ecclesiam de Coldingham liberam et quietam in perpetuum tam a nobis quam a Successoribus nostris ab omni calumpnia consuetudine cana vel coneved atque ab omni servicio quod ad nos pertinet vel ad successores nostros. Quare volumus et Episcopali confirmamus auctoritate quatinus Ecclesia de Coldingham et omnes Ecclesia et Capella qui amodo canonice ad eccliam Sti Cuthberti pertinuerunt libere et quiete sint in perpetuum ab omni Episcopali auxilio et cana et cunevid ita ut liberiores et quietiores sint, quam aliqua aliae Ecclesiae abbatiarum qui fuerint in Londoneio, et prohibemus ne aliquis amodo Episcopus archidiaconus vel Decanus aliquam omnino ulterius consuetudinem vel auxilium ab eis exigit nisi forte gratis dare voluerant. Haec omnia fecimus precis et consilio Dni Regis Davidis et predictorum Episcoporum fratrum nostrorum pro amore Sti Cuthberti et fraternitate Dunelmensis monachorum XVI. Kal. Augusti in festo Sti Kenelmi martyris anno ab Incarnatione Dni MCXXVII testibus presentibus Roberto fratre meo, Blahano Presbitero de Lintun aldelfo Presbitero de Haldehastoc Henrico presbitero de Leishale Orm Presbitero de Edenham et Johane presbitero de Ledgaresudē Godwino Dapifero Godwine Camerario meo, et Bauldun cum multis alijs personis Religiosis tam Clericorum quam Laicorum.

## No. 4.

*Charter of William the Lion, respecting the Woods and Wastes belonging to the Priory.*

W. Rex Scottorum Abbatibus etc. Sciatis quod volo et firmiter precipio quod nemora Monachorum de Collingaham, videlicet Grenewde et totum nemus de Bistuna et Brochelewde et Alasseide et Richedeneswde et Harewde et Denewde et Swinewde et Hundewde et omnia nemora et gwastinia sua sint sub defensione Prioris et custodia necnon et monachorum de Collingaham ne aliquis super 10 libras forisfacturae predictis nemoribus vel Gwastinis capiat nisi per monachos prenominati loci, si ipse presens non fuerit. Exceptis tantummodo necessariis de Castello meo de Berwich que

mihimet ipse solumodo conveniant. Et si clientes mei per necessariis meis ad opus Castelli mei de Berewich ad nemora predicta venerint : per Priorem vel per clientes suos quæ opus fuerint mihi et ubi ipse vel clientes sui monstraverint accipiant. Insuper addo et illis concedo quod predictus Prior et Monachi habeant Gwarrennam in predictis nemoribus et per totam terram suam sicut extenduntur rectae et antiquae divisae · Videlicet a divisis inter Berewich et Lambertunam, usque ad Billie et usque ad Drieford et usque ad Rivulum qui manat in mare per Aldchambuspethe ita quod nullus ibi aliquid capiat nec ligna nec aliquam bestiam silvestrem nisi per ipsos. Quod si aliquis in predictis nemoribus vel Gwastinis capiatur venando vel ligna secando vel aliquid inde accipiendo praeter licentiam Prioris et monachi quod super illum et cum illo invenerint et ego forisfacturam prenominatam : Test Ricardo episc sant Andrae · Ingelramo epis de Glesgu · Nicol · Cancellario · Abbate de Jeddwrth · David Olifart justiciario et aliis · Apud Berewich.

#### No. 5.

#### *Charter of Robert de Bruce, conferring on the Monks a yearly Donation of five Harts at the Feast of St. Cuthbert's Translation.*

Robertus Dei gratia Rex Scottorum Omnibus probis hominibus totius terrae ænae salutem Sciatis nos propter devotionem quam habemus erga Sanctum Cuthbertum et monasterium Dunelmense in honorem ipsius Sancti dedisse concessisse etc. pro nobis et heredibus nostris religiosis viris priori et conventui monasterii Dunelmiae ibidem deo servientibus et inperpetuum servituris quinque cervos annuatim de foresta nostra de Selkirk per liberationem capitalis forestarii nostri dictae forestae qui pro tempore fuerit pro festo suo translationis Ste Cuthberti · et qui dicti cervi capiantur ad festum assumptionis beatae Mariae Virginis annuatim et carientur per dictum forestarium nostrum de custagiis nostris usque prioratum de Coldingham. Ita quod in dicto festo Sti Cuthberti ad honorem suum et memoriam nostri ac heredum nostrorum de dictis cervis valeat perpetuo deservire. In cujus rei testimonio presenti cartae sigillum nostrum precipimus apponi. Testibus Bernardo Abbate de Abirbrothoc Cancellario nostro · Thoma Ranulphi Comite moraviae etc. Jacobo domino de Douglas · Roberto de Bruys filio nostro · Roberto de Keth marescallo Scotiae etc. Apud Neubotill vicesimo sexto die Decembris Anno Regni nostri vicesimo secundo.



## No. 6.

*Charter of William de Mordington.*

Omnibus hominibus fidelibus ad quos presens scriptum pervenerit .  
 Willelmus de Mordingtona eternam in Domino salutem. Noverit uni-  
 versitas vestra me caritatis intuitu et ob reverentiam et amorem glo-  
 riosi confessoris, Cuthberti et pro salute animae meae et pro animabus  
 patris et matris meae, et antecessorum et successorum meorum con-  
 cessisse et hac presenti carta mea confirmasse priori et monachis dunel-  
 mensibus apud Coldingham Deo servientibus et in perpetuum servi-  
 turis unam piscariam in Tweda . scilicet illam piscariam quam habui  
 in schipeswel cum stelnette quam habui in eodem loco tenendas et  
 habendas libere et quiete et honorifice in puram et perpetuam elemo-  
 sinam. Ego autem et heredes mei dictam piscariam cum dicta  
 stelnette dictis priori et monachis contra omnes warrantizabimus et  
 in hujus testimonium presens scriptum sigilli mei munimine roboravi.  
 Hiis testibus Domino Thoma de Lestalic . Domino Alano de Swin-  
 tona . Ada de Prendergest . Waltero . Andrea . Alexandro de  
 Paxtona . Johanne filio Helye . Ada de Restona . Bertramo filio  
 suo . Radulfo preposito . Rogero filio ejus . Willelmo . vicario de  
 Aldecarnbus . Radulfo serviente & multis aliis.

## No. 7.

*Bull of Pope Benedict II. bestowing the Priory of Cold-  
 ingham on Hugh, Bishop of Biblis, extracted from  
 Prynn's Records, vol. iii. p. 1059.*

Benedictus Episcopus, Servus Servorum Dei, venerabili fratri A.  
 Episcopo Dunelmensi Salutem, et Apostolicam benedictionem. Ex-  
 hibita nobis tua petitio continebat, quod Saraceni, Christiani nominis  
 inimici, Episcopatum Bibliensem occuparunt hactenus, et adhuc de-  
 tinent occupatum, et per hoc venerabilis frater noster Hugo Bibliensis  
 Episcopus egestate gravatur, cum aliunde non habeat de quo secundum  
 status sui decentiam valeat sustentari. Quare nobis humiliter suppli-  
 casti, ut providere suae indigentiae de benignitate Apostolica digna-  
 remur. Nos igitur ipsius inopiae paterno compatiens affectu, dig-  
 neque volentes ei per nostrae provisionis auxilium subsidium aliquod  
 provenire, tuis supplicationibus inclinati providendi sibi auctoritati  
 nostrae per te, vel per alium seu alios, de cella seu Prioratu de Colding-  
 ham ordinis Sancti Benedicti Sancti Andreae Diocesis ad Dunelmen-  
 sem Ecclesiam ejusdem ordinis pertinente, procujus administrationem

prior Ecclesiae praedictae aliquem de monachis ipsius Ecclesiae deputat, et amovet pro suo libito voluntatis, cum omnibus juribus et pertinentiis suis, ab eodem episcopo vixerit, vel usque ad recuperationem dicti Episcopatus retinendi et inducendi eum in corporalem possessionem ejusdem Cellae seu prioratus, et inductum etiam defendendi amotis exinde quibuslibet qui ad gerendam administrationem ipsius cellae seu prioratus per dictum priorem fuerint deputati, ac faciendi ei de ejusdem cellae redditibus, proventibus, juribus universis; integre responderi; necnon et contradictores super hoc per censuram ecclesiasticam appellatione postposita compescendi, non obstantibus contrariis ejusdem ecclesiae consuetudinibus, vel statutis, juramento, confirmatione sedis Apostolicae, seu quacunque alia firmitate roboratis; aut se praedictis priori et dilectis filiis capitulo ipsius Ecclesiae vel quibuscunque aliis communiter vel divisim, a praedicta sede in vultum existat quod excommunicari suspendi vel interdicti non possint, sive quod de cellis seu prioratibus ad eorum provisionem seu quamcunque dispositionem spectantibus, nequeat aliquibus provideri per litteras Apostolicas, non facientes plenam et expressam ac de verbo ad verbum de in vultu hujuscunq[ue] tenoris existat per quam praesentibus non expressam, vel totaliter non insertam effectus hujusmodi gratiae impediri valeat vel differri, et de qua in nostris literis specialis mentio sit habenda, fraternitati tuae plenam concedimus tenore praesentium facultatem.

Datum Romae Apud Sanctum Petrum 3. Non. Aprilis,  
Pontificatus nostri Anno Primo.

## No. 8.

### *Charter of Robert II. annexing Coldingham Priory to the Abbey of Dunfermline, (25th July 1378.)*

Robertus Dei gratia Rex Scottorum, &c. quod nos magna et consueta regni nostri pericula, proditiones et insidias diligenti consideratione attendentes, quae saepius nostrae regiae majestatis, regno nostro et incolis ejusdem, ex mora, inhabitatione et receptione monachorum Anglicorum Dunelmiae prioratum de Coldingham diutissime occupantium damnabiliter provenerunt: volentesque indemnitati, paci et securitati praelibati regni nostri et hominum nostrorum imposterum consulere, necnon utilitati prioratus praedicti affectu regio providere; Cum ordinatio ejusdem prioratus ex causa forisfacti, loci exspolatione et desolatione ejusdem per eosdem monachos vacui et derelicti, nostram majestatem concernat, et ad hoc, potestas ad manus nostras juxta leges regni nostri existat liquido devoluta ex deliberato concilio, pro salute

animæ nostræ, antecessorum et successorum nostrorum regum Scotiæ, damus et concedimus, applicamus, unimus et incorporamus, ac etiam præsentī cartā nostrā confirmamus Deo et beatæ Mariæ Virginis ecclesiæque Sanctæ Trinitatis et monasterio Sanctæ Margarietæ reginæ de Dumfermlyn, prædictum prioratū integrum de Coldingham, cum tota Baronia ejusdem, pertinentiis suis et appenditiis quibuscunque, tenendam, habendam, applicandam, incorporandam, &c. præfato monasterio de Dumfermlyn, abbati et conventui ejusdem et eorum successoribus, de nobis et heredibus nostris in perpetuum in puram et perpetuam eleemosinam in terris et aquis, tenandriis et feodis, ecclesiis et ipsarum juribus et ecclesiarum advocacionibus, præsentationibus et jure patronatus, molendinis et piscationibus, in moris, maresiis, nemoribus, boscis, planis, pratis, pascuis et cum omnibus aliis commoditatibus et aisiamentis ad dictum prioratū et ad dictam baroniam spectantibus tam non nominatis quam nominatis et expressis, in omnibus et per omnia, modo pariter et forma quibus dictum prioratū et dictam baroniam prior et monachi Dunelmenses tenuerunt. Sic videlicet quod monachi de conventu de Dumfermlyn, qui in ipso prioratu divino cultui debeant jugiter insistere, ibidem mittantur et maneant, tot quidem numero, quot, hospitalitatis onere et aliis oneribus necessariis attentis, de fructibus et proventibus præfati prioratus honeste valeant sustentari, ad nutum abbatis mittendi et revocandi, prout sibi videbitur pro statu utriusque loci utilius ordinandam. Prior autem in dicto loco præficiendus, de gremio collegii de Dumfermlyn vel de dicto prioratu, per abbatem ipsius cum suo consilio assumatur, et episcopo Sancti Andree, qui pro tempore fuerit, præsentetur. Qui mox per eundem admissus, plenam administrationem bonorum dicti prioratus habebit: ita tamen ut deductis bonis et administratione suis singulis annis dicto abbati respondeat, ac rationem reddat; absque rationabili causa et evidenti utilitati utriusque loci id exposcente, prout cum consilio dicti Domini episcopi fuerit faciendum, a sua administratione nullatenus amovendus. In cujus rei testimonium præsentī cartæ nostrum præcipimus apponi sigillum. Testibus venerabili in Christo Willelmo episcopo Sancti Andree, Johanne primogenito nostro de Carrick, senescallo Scotiæ, Roberto de Fyfe et Menteth filio nostro dilecto, Willelmo de Douglas et de Marr consanguineo nostro, comitibus, venerabili viro magistro Johanne de Pebles archidiacono Sancti Andree cancellario, Jacobo de Lindesay nepote nostro, Alexandro de Lindesay consanguineo nostro, militibus. Apud Perth, vicesimo quinto die mensis Julii, anno ab incarnatione Domini millesimo trecentesimo septuagesimo octavo et regni nostri octavo.















